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Arab-Israeli Talks

Musa Meets Peres, 'Abbas; Negotiations Begin

Peres, Musa Comment Before Meeting

NC2712173793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)—Talks between Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his Israeli counterpart, Shim'on Peres, began at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry this afternoon.

In response to a question addressed to him before the start of the talks, Peres said that it is not a question of optimism or pessimism. He added: We are serious. We have come to implement the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles. We want to help the Palestinians as much as possible and in a way that preserves their dignity and enables them to manage their lives at this stage. He then said: Let us not forget that the Palestinians will assume responsibility for more than a million people. This is a big responsibility and a serious one.

The Israeli foreign minister added: We will discuss political and economic affairs so as to enable the Palestinians to undertake this responsibility as best they can. The spirit and the text of the Declaration of Principles is the only thing that we will abide by. Peres noted that he has come to negotiate with the Palestinians, not with the media. He referred to an Arab proverb that says "peace before talks." He said the proverb in Arabic. He added that the basic purpose of his visit is to hold serious negotiations while taking into account the fact that there are two parties to the negotiations. He said: We are not ignoring this. We want the Palestinians to achieve real success.

In response to another question about Israel's proposal to make the size of Jericho 50 square km, Peres said: This is one of the points we have come to seriously negotiate because statements about it are creating unnecessary confusion.

The Israeli foreign minister thanked the Egyptian president and the Egyptian Government for hosting the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. He said that this confirms that Cairo has become the "capital of peace," and not just the Nile capital.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa interrupted here, jokingly telling Peres and the press that if they did not leave the Israeli foreign minister alone then the Arab proverb he quoted would turn into its opposite and become "talks before peace."

Both ministers then entered the meeting hall to begin their talks.

Musa: Peres Talks 'Helpful and Serious'

NC2712183193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that his talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres dealt with the current situation and the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations with regard to implementing the Declaration of Principles between the two parties. In a statement after his talks with Peres this evening, Musa said that the talks were helpful and serious and that additional talks will be held later this evening. He noted that they are waiting for Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Palestinian side to the Liaison Committee talks, and the rest of the delegation members to meet with Peres and the Israeli delegation.

Musa noted that Peres came to Egypt full of hope that the talks would lead to an agreement, adding: I share this hope with him. He pointed out that serious efforts will be made this evening and tomorrow, adding: We hope to proclaim the talks a success.

Musa said that there will be no need for mediation efforts when the Israeli and Palestinian delegations meet and that the Egyptians will not be at the negotiating table. He said that all aspects of the situation—including the Palestinian, Israeli, and Egyptian views—were discussed, along with world reaction and the circumstances surrounding the peace process. He stressed that there is an opportunity to reach an agreement on implementing the Declaration of Principles because the gap between the two sides is not wide. He noted that a meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will take place and hoped that there would be no setbacks.

Israeli Foreign Minister Peres said we are here to discuss the possibility of making progress. We will do everything we can to overcome the obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration of Principles.

Musa Meets With 'Abbas, Quray'

NC2712190693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met tonight with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas and Ahmad Quray', head of the PLO's economic department, immediately following the Palestinian officials' arrival in Cairo.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department; Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat; and Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal then joined the meeting.

They discussed the obstacles to implementing the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and the outcome of Musa's talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, which were held this afternoon.

The Palestinian and Israeli delegations then met in 'Amr Musa's office, and the negotiations between the Palestinian delegation led by Mahmud 'Abbas and the Israeli delegation led by Shim'on Peres began.

Mubarak, Peres Discuss Peace Process 28 Dec

NC2812105493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the presidential headquarters in Heliopolis this morning. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid. The discussion during the meeting dealt with the latest developments on the Palestinian-Israeli track and the possibility of overcoming the problems that are obstructing the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Security Committee Talks Seen at 'Impasse'

NC2812105093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0954 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli Security Committee headed by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Amnun Shahaq, Israeli assistant chief of staff, began meetings in Cairo this morning in yet another effort to remove the obstacles hindering the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

Palestinian delegation sources told MENA that the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee headed by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will begin meetings at noon today after President Mubarak receives the Israeli foreign minister.

Last night, an unofficial preparatory meeting was held over a small dinner hosted by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa for Mahmud 'Abbas and Peres. The dinner was attended for the Palestinian side by PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', and Nabil Sha'th. For the Israeli side, the dinner was attended by Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, Amnun Shahaq, and Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir.

Palestinian delegation sources said the delegation presented three proposals concerning border crossings, but the Israelis rejected them.

As for the area of Jericho, the Israelis have offered only 70 square km, saying this is three times the original size of the city, which they estimate at 27 square km.

There is apparently an inclination to bring the Palestinian and Israeli viewpoints closer through agreement on 170 square km. The Palestinians are demanding 370 square km, which constituted the Jericho district under the British mandate and the Jordanian administration.

On the security of Israeli settlements, the sources said that the area around settlements over which the Israelis demand control reduces the size of the Gaza Strip by half. There is an attempt to confine the Israeli security presence to inside the settlements.

Diplomatic sources close to the negotiations believe that the sense that there is an impasse continues to dominate the atmosphere.

The sources attach great hopes to the role of Egypt and President Husni Mubarak in advancing peace efforts and leading the negotiations out of the crisis, especially after the president's meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo on Sunday.

The sources said it has not been decided whether the Liaison Committee will end its talks today or extend them until tomorrow. They said this depends on how much progress is made today.

Knesset Member Meets Saudi Economic Official

TA2412112593 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Dec 93 p 1

[Report by Daniyel Ben-Simon]

[Excerpts] Knesset Member [MK] Rafi Edri met a senior Saudi economic figure in Paris early this week. Edri met the Saudi in the framework of a visit to Morocco and Tunisia aimed at explaining Israel's positions regarding the controversy with the PLO on the control over the border crossings in Gaza and Jericho.

Following the meeting the Saudi, who plays an extremely prominent role in the Saudi economy, expressed understanding for the Israeli positions. He promised Edri to try to influence 'Arafat to moderate his demands. [passage omitted]

Prior to the meeting with the Saudi, MK Edri and Jacques Neriya, Rabin's political adviser, held a meeting with Morocco's King Hassan. After that meeting Edri held a meeting with Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], who was invited by the king to Rabat. The next day Edri flew to Tunisia for a meeting with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. After that meeting the Tunisian president also expressed understanding for the Israeli demands and promised to act toward bridging the gaps between Israel and the PLO.

Tunisia may be the second North African country that Prime Minister Rabin visits following his visit to Morocco. Rabin was slated to meet the Tunisian president after his lightning visit to Morocco a day after the signing ceremony in Washington. This visit, however, did not materialize. Preparations are under way to arrange such a state visit in the next few weeks.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic World League Issues Final Communique

LD2512225493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1845 GMT 25 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Holy Mecca, 25 Dec—The constituent council of the Islamic World League has expressed its deep thanks, appreciation, and deep gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, his loyal crown prince, and their wise government for the continuous support given by the Kingdom to the Islamic World League, their considerable interest in the causes of Muslims, and the material and moral support they offer to the spreading of the Islamic call. [passage omitted]

This was in the final communique issued at the end of the 33d extraordinary session of the council in Holy Mecca today under the chairmanship of His Grace Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Baz, general mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, chairman of the the senior scholars' body and the religious studies administration and Ifta [recourse to fatwa to resolve issues], and chairman of the council, and in the presence of the new secretary general of the Islamic World League Dr. Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali, and the members of the council.

The council lauded the lofty positions of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member countries in backing the steadfastness of the brother Muslims in the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina against the aggression of the Serbs and Croats, and it urged the leaders of the GCC member countries to adopt a firm political stand to make the UN Security Council lift the ban on arms sales imposed on the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The council called on the Islamic Conference Organization member countries to bolster the steadfastness of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina in protecting their own entity and ending the injustice against them, by means of international political and economic pressure in order to enable the Bosnians to arm and defend themselves.

Concerning the issue of Jerusalem and Palestine, the council affirmed that the Jerusalem issue is the number one cause for Muslims, which must not be abandoned, and the rights of its people must be preserved. The council stressed that no one has the right to surrender them.

The Islamic World League [IWL] condemned the ruling of the so-called Israeli Supreme Court claiming that the Aqsa Mosque was a part of Israeli territory. It called on the leaders of Islamic and Arab states to unify their stances, coordinate their efforts and unite their word in order to deal with the Palestine issue, achieve complete withdrawal of Israeli forces, and secure the Palestinian people's rights, its self-determination, and the establishment of its independent Islamic state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The IWL's constituent council urged all the sides in the conflict in Afghanistan to adhere to Islamic principles, abandon personal differences, rise above personal interests, provide stability and security for the Muslim Afghan people, not to allow external interventions that are aimed at deviating the objectives of the jihad, and waste the gains made by the Mujahidins. It appealed to Islamic and international states and bodies to continue their support and material, moral, and scientific assistance [to Afghanistan], and to set up an international fund to reconstruct Afghanistan.

Regarding the situation in Somalia, the council urged the leaders of the warring parties to seek the arbitration of the pure shar' [Islamic law] and sit together in peaceful negotiations that would unite them for the interest of Somalia and its Muslim people.

Regarding Muslim minorities in non-Islamic countries, the council urged those countries not to impose restrictions on some Islamic communities and to stop putting indirect pressure on them because of adherence by some of them to the teachings of their true Islamic religion.

The council called on the IWL member-states and Islamic organizations to provide material and moral assistance to Muslims in the Islamic republics of central Asia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, and to adopt their just causes in order to find the required solutions and to remove the injustice, pressures, and the siege imposed on some of them.

The council also called for strengthening ties with Muslims in the People's Republic of China.

In addition, the council affirmed the need for the rule of the Islamic Shari'a and urged Muslim governments to take urgent measures to implement it in all aspects of life and work and to try to overcome obstacles in the way of such an aim.

The council saw a need to contact circles influencing indoctrination and public opinion at Islamic universities and information and cultural institutions in order to decrease the reasons for spiritual alienation and warned against the spread of destructive anti-Islamic movements and credos.

The statement urged, moreover, Islamic information organs, mosque Imams and preachers everywhere in the world to work to enlighten Muslims about their just causes and expose wanton practices being waged against some Muslims. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Reveals Contacts With Western Officials

JN2812104693 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Dec 93 p 25

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas] has revealed that it held contacts with Western officials and diplomats in London a few days ago with the aim of "suspending" military operations against the Israelis and to give the Palestinian-Israeli agreement a chance to succeed.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, said that he "personally met with some of those Western diplomats and officials in the British capital."

To spare them embarrassment, Nazzal declined to give the names of the Western diplomats and officials with whom he met.

He said: The contacts revolved around Hamas' position on the Gaza-Jericho agreement and other developments in the occupied territories, especially the qualitative military operations that the movement carried out against the occupation troops and settlers.

Nazzal said that he explained to those officials that the movement has a clear position regarding the need to continue military action until the occupation is removed.

In response to a question on the Israeli occupation authorities' recent contacts with Hamas in the occupied territories, Nazzal said: These contacts were initiated by the Israeli side. They were held with some Hamas officials in Israeli prisons to convince them to ask Hamas leaders outside prison to halt military action.

Nazzal revealed that Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations with the Palestinians on withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, is one of those who held such contacts. He stressed that Hamas has rejected those offers because the occupation, which is the justification for the continued military action, is still there.

In response to a question, Nazzal denied any contacts between Hamas and Israeli officials outside Israeli prisons.

On what has been reported about a cease-fire offered by Hamas, the Hamas representative said that the truth of this offer has been distorted by the Israeli mass media. He said the cease-fire was not comprehensive and final, but was for three days only and covers only the settlers. He noted that this ultimatum is over, and that the al-Qassam battalions have declared a resumption of military operations against the settlers.

In response to a question, Nazzal denied that the 10 faction-bloc has broken up. He emphasized that the 10 factions will meet in Damascus on Thursday [30 December]. However, he admitted the existence of differences and various views regarding the organizational formula, which is currently under consideration.

He said: The 10-faction bloc will remain the minimum level through which the resistance to the occupation and to any agreement that relinquishes the Palestinian people's rights can continue.

He said: Hamas has every respect and appreciation for all its allies in the 10-faction coalition, but it does not want charges to be leveled against it by any of those allies through the media.

Nazzal hoped that a "brotherly spirit would prevail between Hamas and its allies." He stressed that "the points of agreement are more than the points of disagreement.

Nazzal criticized the "phenomenon of some Palestinian factions' claiming responsibility for some operations that have been carried out by the al-Qassam battalions, especially since the factions that claim responsibility for such operations are among the 10 factions."

It is noteworthy that some military operations in the occupied territories were claimed by both Hamas and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The latest operation was the one in which two settlers were killed in Baytuniya near Ramallah.

Factions Delay Meeting Due to 'Differences'

JN2712151293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Dec 93 p 28

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpts] The 10 opposition Palestinian factions have, for the second time, put off a meeting they were to have convened in Damascus. Palestinian sources said the postponement was due to sharp differences. First scheduled for 13 December, the meeting was moved back to 18 December, and has now been set for next Thursday [30 December] without any explanation given.

The differences are nothing new. They surfaced two days after the "alliance" was announced, when, according to sources of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] reversed their support for a settlement based on UN resolutions that satisfy Palestinian rights—something Hamas has rejected.

Over the past two days, Hamas officials demanded that they be represented by five delegates in the 10-member alliance, thus triggering differences, which alliance members sought to black out.

Contacted in Damascus by telephone from Amman, Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], a member of the political bureau of the PFLP, said top echelons of the 10 factions had agreed to examine papers submitted by the Palestinian National Salvation Front, Hamas, and the Islamic Jihad, plus the democratic forces. Due to a failure by brothers in the Hamas leadership to arrive in Damascus on schedule, they requested a postponement of the meeting. The subject of the strength of Hamas'

representation, according to certain Hamas officials, never arose in the meetings or in their paper.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa adds in his statements to AL-DUSTUR: If they want half of the seats on the alliance, they may demand as much, but we are similarly entitled to say no to their demand. There should be a balance in the relative representation of the constituent members of the alliance. However, whatever formula is worked out by the 10 factions is a temporary arrangement, pending the convening of a general national congress, which will decide on national Palestinian action. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, another PFLP political bureau member, has called Hamas' demand to be represented by five delegates in the alliance "disruptive." We will retain the PLO as the moral and national representative of the Palestinian people, Malluh said.

Meanwhile, in Amman, differences were rumored to have surfaced between Hamas and the DFLP, led by Nayif Hawatimah, over the latter's taking credit for a Gaza attack mounted by 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam's battalions, in which a senior Israeli Army officer was killed.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that Hamas leaders want the disputed claim listed on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the 10 factions.

'Technical' Reasons Behind Delay

JN2712161593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Dec 93 p 28

[By Hamdan al-Hajj]

[Text] Muhammad Nazzal, representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Jordan said the meeting of the 10 Palestinian factions, known as the alliance of Palestinian forces opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, was delayed for purely technical and not political reasons.

He said several members, who were supposed to attend the meeting, were unable to do so due to previous engagements. He emphasized, at the same time, that this meeting will be held next Thursday [30 December].

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, Nazzal said the Hamas Movement will present a plan on the organizational structure and formula of the alliance. Hamas will propose the creation of a 40-member central authority formed by the alliance, of which 20 percent will go to the independents and the other 80 percent will go to the factions that make up the alliance. The plan also calls for setting up an executive authority of 15 members, one from each faction and the other five independents who are elected by the central command. He said the plan also includes some administrative details, and the meeting will be open to any plan from any faction in order to agree on a mechanism that governs the alliance.

Nazzal advised a wait-and-see approach and said he hoped that the 10 factions would conduct their dialogue with great spirit in order to reach a final agreement on the means of making the alliance move according to the set plans, and within the objectives for which the alliance was created.

Nazzal described this alliance as a political alliance in which all members agree on certain bases that link Hamas and the other Palestinian factions. He said ideological disagreements do not prevent such an alliance, and emphasized that Hamas wants this alliance to continue with a minimum of ideology and openly reject the agreement that is aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause.

On the crisis in the Palestinian-Israeli talks, Nazzal said the peace process and the agreement have been in crisis since they started. He added that this crisis is likely to continue, and this agreement will not survive in a healthy atmosphere, especially since rejection of this agreement is on the rise among Palestinians at the grassroots level.

Delegation To Submit Reform Demands to 'Arafat

JN2612125993 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Dec 93 p 25

[Text] Amman—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi [Palestinian chief negotiator in the Washington peace talks] is to chair the committee which will meet with President 'Arafat in Tunis today concerning the political memorandum that calls for reforms and democracy in the Palestinian leadership.

After yesterday's meeting at the Palestinian People's Party [PPP] office, which lasted approximately two hours, Nabil 'Amr, member of the committee following up the political memorandum, told AL-RA'Y that the committee also includes Engineer Ibrahim Abu-'Ayyash, Dr. Taysir 'Aruri, Nabil 'Amr, and three occupied territory personalities whose names have not yet been specified.

'Amr added: In intensive and successive meetings held a few days ago, we worked out a mechanism of action on the items and demands mentioned in the political memorandum. The committee, chaired by Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, will submit these demands to the PLO Executive Committee for the appropriate decisions to be made.

The signatories to the political memorandum from Fatah, the PPP, and the independents who support the Oslo agreement held a meeting at the Palestine National Council headquarters on Monday. The conferees set up a follow-up committee comprising Dr. Taysir 'Aruri, Nabil 'Amr, Ghazi al-Khalili, Tawfiq Abu-Bakr, Engineer Ibrahim Abu-'Ayyash, 'Ubaydah al-Kazimi, Dr. Anis al-Qasim, Mahmud al-Rimawi, and Dr. 'Izz-al-Din al-Manasirah.

Israel Accused of Violating Accord by Expropriating Land

NC2612145493 Paris AFP in English 1332 GMT 26 Dec 93

[Text] Tunis, Dec 26 (AFP)—The PLO accused Israel Sunday [26 December] of violating the autonomy accord by expropriating Palestinian land and failing to stop the spread of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The PLO executive committee charged that Israel had begun expropriating and closing off "thousands of hectares" of land west of Ramallah in the West Bank and around East Jerusalem, its official news agency WAFA reported.

The committee, which met here Saturday under chairman Yasir 'Arafat, said the measures were aimed at "establishing a territorial link" between these lands and neighboring Jewish settlements.

The Palestine Liberation Organization also denounced "provocative actions" by settlers, who had begun preparing the ground for dozens of new settlements "without the army intervening to stop them," according to WAFA.

"These provocative actions are a flagrant violation" of the PLO-Israeli accord signed on September 13, and "a dangerous escalation in a series of violations by the Israelis," the PLO charged.

The violations included the extension of settlements and the continued Israeli "blockade" around East Jerusalem, which served to "diminish the credibility of the Israeli commitment to the entire peace process," it said.

The executive committee asked the Israeli government "to bring a swift end to all these actions, reverse the measures already taken, and vigorously fight the actions of Israeli settlers," it said.

In Jerusalem last week, the Council of Jewish Settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip announced it would double the number of settlements in the territories as part of its battle to torpedo the autonomy accord.

But military sources in Jerusalem said Sunday that the Israeli army was using helicopters to monitor Jewish settlers in a bid to prevent them from building new housing projects in the territories.

The executive committee here also discussed obstacles to the implementation of the self-rule accord ahead of a resumption of negotiations scheduled for Monday in Cairo.

'Arafat arrived in Cairo on Sunday for talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak as part of efforts to break the deadlock.

PLO Advances 4-Currency Plan for Territories

JN2512104393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Dec 93 p 10

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) wants to use a mixture of Jordanian, Israeli and Egyptian currencies as well as the American dollar in the autonomous territories envisaged under the Sept. 13 agreement with Israel, Palestinian sources said.

The sources said the PLO position was conveyed to Israel during talks on economic cooperation in Paris over the past two months, adding that the Israeli team had not formally responded to the request yet.

But indications are that Israel would agree to the PLO request after "certain modifications," said a senior PLO source. The source declined to elaborate.

According to the sources, the PLO's move to have the Israeli shekel and Egyptian pound along with the dinar and American dollar stemmed from a desire to "keep all options open" during the "final status negotiations" scheduled to begin in the third year of autonomy under the Sept. 13 accord.

"Given the inevitability that large numbers of Palestinians will have to continue to work in Israel and will get paid in Israeli shekels, it is only logical that the Israeli currency will have to remain valid in the occupied territories until such time the Palestinian economy is totally independent of Israel," said the senior PLO source.

The sources said the PLO wanted to "progressively expand" the use of the mixture of currencies to the rest of the West Bank during the interim accord.

In the same vein, the source said, the Gaza Strip will have close links with Egypt if only because of the close proximity of the Mediterranean strip with Egyptian territory and the fact that Egypt ruled Gaza until the 1967 war had led to many de facto situations where such relations cannot be shed overnight.

"The move (for a mixture of currencies) has little to do with the PLO's quest for an integrated economic relationship with Jordan, and the use of non-Jordanian currencies along with the dinar in the occupied territories will have no political bearing," according to the source.

"The PLO remains committed to the ultimate objective of very close economic relations with Jordan," said the source when asked why PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had not yet endorsed a draft economic accord with Jordan. "The idea is to keep all Palestinian options open and preempt any moves that might be used by Israel to deny Palestinian statehood."

No Jordanian official was immediately available for comment. But officials have said that Jordan would have

to exercise its own options to maintain the stability of the dinar if the PLO did not ratify the draft economic accord.

Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi said last week that a Jordanian decision to enter an agreement with Israel to reopen Jordanian commercial banks in the occupied territories was independent of the proposed economic accord with the PLO.

Jordan has started negotiating the agreement with Israel, which was signed early this month, many months before the PLO and Israel signed their Sept. 13 autonomy accord.

Officials say that the banking accord was an essential element to allow Jordan to have a say in the monetary and banking affairs of the occupied territories by virtue of the fact that between JD 300 million and JD 400 million are now in circulation among the two million Palestinians living there.

Officials say Jordan has informed the PLO that any decision it takes in the context of currency and other monetary affairs of the occupied territories should be closely coordinated with the Kingdom if only to enable Amman to adopt the necessary measures to protect its currency.

The quest for Israeli permission to set up an independent Palestinian authority has been temporarily set back," said the senior PLO source, confirming that Israel had turned down the request saying a Palestinian central bank or even a monetary authority was a token of Palestinian independence and sovereignty, which the Jewish state argues is beyond the realm of the Sept. 13 accord.

"But they have promised to look into the PLO's request to use the mixture of currencies in the interim period," said the source.

An option being entertained by the PLO is a "Palestinian national bank" without the term "central" or "monetary" authority. This proposal received British government backing during the London visit in mid-December of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, other sources told the JORDAN TIMES.

According to the sources, although the PLO wants Israeli permission to print and issue Palestinian currency the organisation does not believe that it could release any independent currency if only because of the lack of monetary cover required under international standards.

"In the negotiations with Israel, we have demanded the right to determine our own monetary policies and the right to issue a Palestinian currency," an unidentified member of the Palestinian delegation was quoted as saying by the JERUSALEM POST.

"According to the delegate, this does not mean that the Palestinians would start to print Palestinian money," the POST said. "He said they demanded the right to do so once they see they can back the currency with reserves.

According to the delegate, the Israeli negotiators did not reject or accept the demand.

"They told us that it is a political issue, a matter of sovereignty, and therefore needs to be referred to the Israeli government for approval," the delegate was quoted as saying by the POST.

"We argued against this point, assuring the Israelis that a currency is not a sign of independence," the delegate told the POST. "...Other entities—like Scotland—have their own currencies without being independent states."

According to independent Palestinian sources, Mr. 'Arafat wants "as many tokens of eventual Palestinian independence as possible" to go along with the belated beginning of Palestinian autonomy.

"He wants to reassure the Palestinians in the occupied territories that self-rule is not an end in itself, but the beginning of Palestinian independence," said a source closely familiar with the thinking of the PLO chairman.

Aims, Principles of New 'Islamic Arab Party'

JN2512130793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Dec 93 p 12

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Our information says Fatah will turn into a political party once the Palestinian National Authority assumes power in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. However, Fatah Revolutionary Council members Ghazi al-Husayni and Khalid Mismar denied this report.

This being the case, coming days will show which report is true. However, it is definite that a party named the Islamic Arab Party [al-Hizb al-'Arabi al-Islami] is about to be established in the Palestinian arena. The party's headquarters will be in Jerusalem with branches in Palestine and abroad.

According to the premises and main bases of the party's platform, the idea behind this party was unleashed in order to reassess the situation, place matters on their right course, renew the blood in the veins of the Arab and Islamic nation, and confront the cultural challenge facing our Islamic nation as it returns to its Islamic roots.

The party's idea was also unleashed in affirmation of the Muslim's right to pursue political action that adheres to Islam's ethics and values in order to activate the Muslims' political efforts designed to build the homeland and empower both Islam and its realism in various political and economic walks of life with the aim of confronting all the imperialist schemes designed to dominate our Arab and Islamic land.

According to the preamble on its definition, the party considers itself as a milestone which has a Palestinian dimension, an Arab depth, an Islamic message, and humanitarian tendencies.

Following are details on the party's political program on various levels, unedited by AL-DUSTUR.

On the Palestinian level:

—Historic Palestine is rightfully owned by its Arab and Muslim Palestinian sons. Despite the various invasions of Palestine, it maintained its Arab and Islamic features until the English occupation of Palestine, which enabled the Jews to establish a homeland in Palestine. Regaining the Arab and Islamic rights is linked to the nations' awakening in terms of ethics, conduct, and law, which should circumvent all forms of ethnic, sectarian, and religious discrimination.

—Addressing the current deteriorating situation in order to change it by maintaining the militant political action through a long-term strategy based on preparing the Muslim Arab peoples for a new phase of conflict in which the Islamic ideology will play a leading and vanguard role, so the slogans raised will be in harmony with the ability to fulfill them.

—Dealing with various solutions as phased solutions which will later become ineffective through action and in the event of a change in the balance of powers. In other words, we should not fear any agreements or treaties because they are phased, and not permanent, ones.

—As part of the proposed peace solutions, and if a national authority is established on any part of Palestine, the party will participate in the political process and manage conflict by respecting both political pluralism and shura in the Palestinian community. The party will also call for achieving social justice among all strata of the people.

On the Arab level:

The party will work for the formation of the widest possible alliance among Arab and Islamic parties in order to set up an Arab shura council in which the whole Arab nation is represented. This council will be the mechanism for unifying their ranks and entrenching their political and economic unity in a phased and studied manner. It will be an instrument for easing the grip of regimes on their peoples so that the peoples will be able to express their views on issues relating to their fate and their future in a manner that maintains human dignity and rights.

The party will work to promote science and the foundations of progress in order to match foreign progress and developments, and so that science and the fear of Almighty God will be our strongest means for preserving our rights, sanctities, independence, and our security, political, and military stability. This will enable us to be the light that guides in darkness and leads our nation out of avenues of darkness.

On the Islamic level:

Forging the closet relations of amity and fraternity with all Islamic peoples all over the world. The party will be for all Muslims and will support them on the Arab and international levels. The party will forge links and alliances with the Islamic states in a bid to set up an Islamic society based on solidarity. The expertise of all Islamic peoples in all fields will be utilized in order to secure moral and material support and to find the best means for entrenching the unity of Muslims wherever they might be.

Activating cultural, educational, and intellectual exchanges among all Islamic peoples in order reach a civilized Islamic culture that copes with the spirit of the age in confronting the imperialist cultural invasion. Closing the gap between the sects so that the Muslims can rid themselves of unjustified fanaticism from certain sects, with the aim of realizing the unity of the Islamic nation.

On the international level:

The party will call for a new world order based on justice and social equality and on renunciation of injustice, aggression, and robbing the wealth of poor countries. Economic justice should be the main focus of this order so that the distribution of wealth is based on justice.

The party will be a main pillar in the interaction of international civilizations. It will affect and be affected so that the peoples will become closer, thus ensuring the realization of peace on earth and respect for the entire human race, its rights to security, stability, and a clean environment, as well as respect for the cultures of other peoples.

General policy:

—Sharia is the main source of legislation, and the nation is the source of powers. The nation has the right to select its deputies and representatives, approve the laws, rules, and legislation that deal with the Islamic sharia.

—The party will work through individuals and communities to educate the sons of the Arab nation in a sound political manner that is enlightened by Islam and its instructions. The Islamic call will be the basis of the party's internal and foreign policy in order to realize happiness and justice for all.

—Entrenching shura and responsible freedom in our country, and ensuring respect for all opinions and responsible dialogue within the framework of political pluralism, and respect for the rights of citizens as emphasized by Islam, and working for legislative guarantees that ensure this objective.

—The party believes in the need to develop a spirit of affiliation to the nation and the homeland, and to work and cooperate with all political, regional, tribal, and sectarian forces that defame this militant homeland, restrict its progress and the continuation of its jihad to attain its full rights. [sentence as published]

—Ending foreign hegemony and tyranny over the nation, liberating its resources, and working to close ranks in order to confront the foreign hegemony and tyranny and abort foreign plots through relentless action aimed at entrenching the pillars of Islamic solidarity so that this solidarity will be a practical behavior that binds all and that prohibits using foreign help against Arabs or Muslims in words and deeds.

On the Social Level:

The family is a main pillar of the society. Therefore, it should feel secure and protected. All the moral and material requirements for its well-being should also be provided.

Men and women have equal rights and duties. Women should exercise their political, economic, and social rights. They also have the right to vote and to run for elections.

Education at all stages is a right for everybody, within the means of the state and commensurate with the individual's skills and talents. The purpose of education is to enhance the intelligence and awareness of the individual so that he can contribute toward promoting a civilized society.

The youth constitute a major, active sector of society. They are an asset for the present and the leaders of the future. We should therefore pay much attention to their well-being in all areas, including science, sports, health, society, etc.

There should be a general policy governing labor. This policy should be outlined by the private and public sectors, so as to enable all citizens to make a living by legitimate means. Public posts should be given to the people who have the best qualifications, in line with specific conditions and standards for each post. This measure is an embodiment of the principle of the right man for the right job.

All citizens should have comprehensive health insurance to ensure that they have access to preventions and treatments.

Social justice should be ensured. This can be done by taking care of children, the disabled, orphans, and the elderly. The income of both retired and active employees should be proportionate with current standards of living.

It is the right of all sectors to form unions. Each union is responsible for serving and promoting its own profession and members in line with public interests.

On the Economic Level:

Man is a guardian over wealth. Private ownership and earning money are the right of every citizen, in line with the rules set by God for earning and dispensing money.

A minimum level of basic needs should be provided to all citizens. These include food, housing, and clothing. Other necessary needs should also be provided. These include education, medical treatment, security, transportation, marriage, and taking care of children.

The principle of public ownership covers all services, roads, public squares, rivers, sea shores, water and air, public utilities and buildings, clinics, forests, deserts, metals, and petroleum. Every citizen must have access to these facilities, which no one may be denied under any circumstances.

Individuals may have their own funds within the framework of the sharia and sharia-based laws and regulations as long as this does not run counter to the general good. The state may grant land ownership so that it may be developed for a fixed period of time. The state may lease sea shores and rivers on a long-term basis for the purpose of starting investment projects for the general welfare of the nation.

The party believes in economic pluralism (public, private, and mixed sectors). The party will promote the establishment of companies and businesses and dealings with other countries in accordance with commercial and industrial treaties so as to serve national interests.

The state may levy the amount of income and property taxes that it deems necessary to meet its requirements with the provision that this does not overburden the taxpayers.

Only such amounts as are required to meet state needs may be collected as customs duties on imports.

The state's expenses include the salaries of the head of state, advisers, ministers, civil servants, security forces, and workers in public utilities and whatever other outlays the state needs within the limits of its means.

It is imperative that foreigners be kept from exploiting our resources. Foreign capital investment in our country will be allowed provided that it is regulated by controls that ensure the national interests and that foreigners are not granted concessions whereby they take control of our affairs.

External borrowing is possible only as a last resort and when this proves absolutely necessary.

OPEC Affairs

World Oil Output Reportedly Unlikely To Fall

NC2712170393 Paris AFP in English 1439 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Nicosia, Dec 27 (AFP)—A call from Gulf Arab states for cooperation between OPEC and independent

oil producers is unlikely to lead to cutbacks aimed at easing pressure on prices, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday [27 December].

"Market circles tend to dismiss the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] plan as containing little of significance which might help to reverse the current ebb-tide for oil prices," said the authoritative Nicosia-based oil newsletter.

"The desired cutback contribution from the non-OPEC side would almost certainly prove incapable of realization," it said.

MEES referred to proposals at an oil ministers' meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Riyadh that non-OPEC producers make cuts of around 700,000 barrels per day (b/d).

The six-nation GCC offered last Wednesday to cut output provided the independents agreed to do the same.

"Given the unlikelihood of anything remotely approaching an appropriate response from non-OPEC, it is difficult to discern any practical change of direction on the OPEC front at present," said MEES.

Yemen and Oman on Sunday pledged to combine efforts to stabilize crude oil prices, which have plunged to record lows, the official Yemeni news agency SABA reported.

Omani Oil Minister Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari, beginning a tour of non-OPEC countries, discussed the market with his Yemeni counterpart Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun in central Yemen.

The ministers stressed "the need for producer countries inside and outside OPEC to take steps to stop the fall in prices," the agency added.

Al-Shanfari, who is due to travel on to Egypt, Syria, Russia, Norway and Britain, has said he would explain the importance of last week's GCC offer and urge cooperation between all producers.

Prices have fallen to historic lows of 12.8 dollars per barrel this month, more than eight dollars below the benchmark set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

OPEC has blamed independent producers, mainly Britain and Norway, for the price collapse. Oman, itself an independent, has said it would cut back by between five and 10 percent in January.

Algeria

Interview With FLN Secretary General

LD2312134093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1103 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Studio interview with Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front, FLN, by unidentified correspondent, from the weekly "Transformations" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Ladies and gentlemen, good morning and welcome once again to the "Transformations" program, which is continuing its political interviews. FLN Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri is the guest of today's program. [passage omitted]

Mr. Mehri, are you still clinging to your stance that the steps that have so far been made toward a dialogue are not enough? Or have you changed your mind given the recent development?

[Mehri] Thank you. By God, the dialogue process is a difficult one. When we urged that dialogue was the best way to overcome the crisis, we were aware that it was going to be a difficult process; very difficult indeed, otherwise, the crisis facing us would not be a real one, would it?

I would like to say here that we should allow in a little bit of optimism because our country, our people, and the politically active forces, which are supposed to be well aware of the seriousness of the situation, regardless of their positions, have all agreed that dialogue is the only way forward. Nevertheless, I would not like here to sound as if I am trying to make people more optimistic.

Although the idea of dialogue has imposed itself upon everyone, the methods used in the dialogue have not been, in my opinion, successful so far. The FLN's position, however, is that we should take part even in those meetings that we are sure will not be successful so that no one will blame us for contributing to the failure of this process, which we ourselves have called for.

Our view on the national conference has been, from the beginning, that it should be a conclusion to the dialogue process, that is, we should first reach a comprehensive agreement on a political platform that can muster the consensus of all active forces in society and acceptance of the people, because it is paramount that the people adopt our solutions for the crisis. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The dialogue is being conducted in isolation from the people, and at the same time, Mr. Mehri, you say that the FLN party is committed to the necessity to continue the dialogue. Do you believe that the shortcomings you have noticed in conducting the dialogue stem from a main party, which is the authority, or do they stem from the political class?

[Mehri] Up to now, I have said that the Higher State Council [HCE] has, as it appears, adopted decisions. As far as it is concerned, the dialogue puts forward the question of what to do to get the political groups and personalities to adopt these decisions that were adopted earlier. Naturally, the method differs if we fix and agree on the goal of the dialogue. If by dialogue we mean changing people or structures, this has its method. The style would differ if by dialogue we mean agreeing on what to do and on a policy and political ground that covers all the dimensions of the crisis and proposes, at the same time, the solutions to these existing problems. The first of these is the question of violence: how to get the country to emerge from the spiral of violence is at the forefront of the issues that we—the authority, political parties and personalities—should study.

[Correspondent] Was this issue put forward at the numerous meetings, either with the HCE or the National Dialogue Commission?

[Mehri] Regrettably, it was not discussed. We put forward a number of issues and proposed that we discuss it in depth to determine all the stances of all parties, and we believe that the people must be acquainted with the process of the dialogue. Thus, let us start with putting forward the issue. How do we get out of the spiral of violence? This is a deep-rooted demand from the people, and it is what determines the rest of the process. Is it sufficient to have just the security treatment, is it enough to have armed confrontation, or is there a political treatment, and what is it? [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Regarding the FLN proposals on how to get out of the crisis: There are political deadlines defined by the HCE, and there is a national conference that will be convened on 25-26 January, so do you think that the FLN's proposals—particularly the proposal on holding a meeting with the political groups participating in the dialogue, among them Hamas, Socialist Forces Front [FFS], Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA], and Ennahdah Movement—could now be presented following the setting of the national conference date?

[Mehri] [passage omitted] As far as we are concerned, if a dialogue resumes on what we are going to do, we are ready. If the aim is to go to a meeting on which we were not consulted and without even having started discussing the project—because the Commission is preparing a project that we have not started discussing because we have not yet received it—then we cannot accept a date as we do not know if we would agree or not on the political ground. The FLN stance is that it does not go to any national conference if it was not convinced that the political ground is not capable of getting the country out of the crisis. If there is a conference that is only a formality and that cannot change the reality of the country, we do not go to it.

[Correspondent] Alright, this is the FLN's stance on the date of the national conference. A member of the National Dialogue Commission [NDC], stated lately that there was contact between you and NDC Chairman

Youcef Khatib. However, the FLN and you have denied such a meeting. Did you meet on 15 December with the NDC chairman, or not? And if so, what was the meeting about?

[Mehri] Of course I met brother Youcef Khatib, chairman of the National Dialogue Commission, following a telephone call. We were supposed to meet on 14 December, but I requested that we postpone the meeting until 15 December because, as I told brother Youcef Khatib, the FLN political bureau decided to send him its agreement on the meeting, and I preferred that he receive its message before the meeting.

As far as I am concerned, we met to discuss the tripartite meeting. I just do not know from where such an interpretation came, that is, that I gave my agreement to the date of the national conference, for I definitely did not. [passage omitted] And more so because of the fact that the date of the conference was decided by a body that, in our opinion, has no mandate to do so. It had never been mentioned that the Higher Security Council should decide the date of the conference. That is why I was astonished; I do not think that it was the best way.

[Correspondent] When you reply to this question and say it is baseless, what is your interpretation of the information given by a member of the Commission?

[Mehri] I regret to discuss issues like these at this time while the country is in such a situation. I said if there was a lesson to be learned, it would be better to hold the dialogue in the future, in the presence of all the media, so that the people would know. Regrettably, when we propose fundamental issues, the people's impression is that we fight about worthless things. [passage omitted]

As for us, the dialogue started with the HCE, and most of the time was spent in contacts with the HCE. The Commission, with respect to all its members, particularly the Commission's president, who exerts efforts and has good intentions, continued in the same pattern. A pattern that is closer to technical and legal administration than to political discussion. [passage omitted]

How do we get out of the violence? How do we restore security to our people so that a citizen could leave and return to his home safely? How could we restore trust between neighbors? These things must return if we want to resolve the other problems, and if we want to rally the Algerians to confront the economic and social crisis. The country cannot operate without a constitution. We have had until now the 1989 constitution, which is inoperable. Do we commit ourselves to this constitution and apply it to the relationship between the state and the citizens, and the relationship among the institutions? Or should we not apply it? Do we continue running the country without any elected institution? How could we return to these normal conditions? They need time. Of course, they need time, but we should examine the steps. What should we do to make a return to constitutional and democratic life possible?

[Correspondent] We turn to the serious issue that was brought up by the FLN: the spiral of violence. Following the serious events our country has gone through, particularly on the security level, and two years after January 1992, does the FLN believe that violence and terrorism exist in Algeria between two clear sides: the authority and the groups that practise violence? Or has the FLN's views on this evolved with the development of events in Algeria?

[Mehri] I do not have the information to define things. But we say, as we have announced in our analyses, that violence starts by known groups, and if it continues, it is a cover for unknown groups. Unfortunately, if violence continues, the doors remain open to all adventurers. Therefore, the spiral of violence is dangerous by itself and it is also dangerous in the political and psychological impact it produces. It is most vital to study in the dialogue how to get out of the spiral of violence.

[Correspondent] Is the political opposition or the political class capable of finding solutions for this spiral, particularly after two years?

[Mehri] The issue is not a political class. It is the issue of the Algerian people. Politicians can find the solution if they are in harmony with the people. If they are separated from the people they cannot.

[Correspondent] What does that mean Mr. Abdelhamid?

[Mehri] It means we are aware of the feelings of the people, we listen to the people. What are the demands of the people now? The people nowadays say: give me security. For me, the subject is not to discuss how the commission that will follow the HCE will be, and we keep discussing this for two years. If we managed to extinguish the fire, still we have to treat the wounds, how to restore tranquillity to the people and to individuals, how to treat these wounds to return to normal life. We should discuss this issue and discuss it in detail: what should we do? We agree on this.

[Correspondent] You focus on or put forward the issue of violence as an essential one, and at the same time, we notice the escalation of violence in our country. Do you consider that by discussing this question in the dialogue—which as you suggested, would bring together parties—the HCE and the National Dialogue Commission can also put forward a main point: the representation of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]? And how does the FLN party see this representation?

[Mehri] We said right from the beginning of the dialogue, as the matter is practical, that we are in need of a national consensus, not only to get out of the crisis, but also to solve the problems that will remain after dealing with their causes.

As far as we are concerned, any real political force must be taken into consideration, regardless of whether our views differ from it or not. We must accept its presence and deal with it as a political force. We might differ on a

number of issues, but reality forces us to accept its presence as a part of the political scene. We still believe this, and I think that the trend is toward this reality. It exists, so should we remove it from the political map? Should we consider it as nonexistent? This is not right and not sound. If it exists, our view is that it should be invited to dialogue and be left with the responsibility to appoint its representatives.

[Correspondent] How should it be invited? In which way?

[Mehri] By the HCE. In our view of dialogue and since the resolution of February 1992, we said that it is the HCE that invites parties to dialogue, and the remaining political groups will come as invited by the HCE. Responsibility thus lies with the HCE.

[Correspondent] In choosing the representatives.

[Mehri] No, in inviting. In our view, the invitation will leave the responsibility to this [Islamic] tendency to choose its representatives.

[Correspondent] Do you not think that the last HCE statement on holding a dialogue with those who practise violence or terrorism reduced the extent of participation by the representatives of the dissolved FIS?

[Mehri] The Higher State Council made several statements. What is important, in my opinion, is that it practices what it says. If we start setting conditions—if all parties start putting down their conditions for dialogue, for you and me to present our opinions—we will not achieve anything. Because of that, we have not set any conditions for opening the dialogue. But we have our own opinions. When we meet with the parties of the dialogue, we can agree or disagree. That is one of the first conditions for a dialogue. If we start with a total or partial boycott, or one restricted by conditions, the result will be negative.

[Correspondent] When you talk about conditions by any party, what about the representatives abroad who are placing conditions on the state? What about some groups or those speaking on behalf of some groups who are putting down their conditions for dialogue? Do you think that the path to dialogue is heading toward a hardline position by the state or the other party? From here, it becomes difficult to take a position on who represents that tendency.

[Mehri] When every party in the dialogue starts to lay down conditions ...[pauses] In our opinion, when we meet at the dialogue, all issues—even those put down now as conditions—are open for discussion. Starting the dialogue, exchanging views between those in charge of the country, should not be subject to conditions. Let us meet and put forward all the issues, and let us agree on what we agree upon and disagree on what we disagree upon. The process and the path will show up after that.

[Correspondent] Well, we notice now that in the context of events currently taking place or the political debate on the question of the objective or the future of dialogue in Algeria, we take note of the positions of the influential parties or those who have taken part in the dialogue and who are criticizing the way the dialogue is being conducted and saying that this way is not conducive to a result. Do you believe, Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri that the position of the opposition, including the FLN, and even the Rally for Culture and Democracy, the FFS, and other parties, stems from the view that if the opposition continues to criticize and reject the ideas of the parties to the dialogue, including the authority, then the dialogue track could fail and the opposition would be blamed for this?

[Mehri] This view does exist, and there are some who have already started blaming the political parties for the failure of the dialogue, and there are some who are blaming the opposition parties for what has been happening in the country for two years. This comes from the sides that have backed the policy of the Higher State Council and pushed it into the wrong road, a dead-end road. And now, they have turned around and have begun to blame the parties that said that this road was wrong for the failure. From day one, we said that a solution to all problems should be through dialogue, and before the onset of violence, we asked that all parties pledge not to engage in violence and all issues be dealt with in a dialogue. We still hold this position. Now we are in a situation where there is violence, violence is in full swing. Therefore, as far as we are concerned, we must get out of violence first and then put forward all problems for dialogue. All issues are open to a political solution. But I return to the problem of violence. If it is the business of the army, the gendarmerie, and the security services, well then, we have nothing to do with it as political parties. But if we say that violence is also a political issue, then the question is: What should we do politically to take the country out of violence? [passage omitted]

In brief, the way to look at violence is this: We imagine a father who has two sons, each on one or the other side. What would the position of the father be then? Would he encourage more fighting, or would he try to stop this. As far as the issue of violence is concerned, we hope that the state will take the position of the father who has two sons, each on opposing sides of the conflict.

[Correspondent] Today it is clear that the authorities have decided to go through a transitional period which has been set at between 18 months and three years. The date for the convening of a national conference to establish a new presidential body has been set and the time limit for the ending of the HCE's guardianship has also been set. Mr. Mehri, do you think that these deadlines and this fixed-term transitional period are necessary as a result of the current circumstances, especially in the area of security? Or do you adhere to your party's position regarding the necessity of returning to the debate of political issues without going through a long transitional period?

[Mehri] In January 1992 we took up our position on the basis of analysis and an attempt to foresee the future. Now we have practical experience.

[Correspondent] Is the analysis still valid today?

[Mehri] Today it is even more valid than in the past. We have had practical experience. In January 1962 what happened?

[Correspondent] In 1992, you mean.

[Mehri] In 1992. They said we would have a transitional period of two years. After two years we will have ended the problem of violence, restored respect for the state, revived the economy, and organized presidential elections. None of this has happened. [passage omitted]

Therefore, I believe that when they say we must have a transitional period which we will lengthen by two or three years, this is not a policy.

[Correspondent] What are the FLN's proposals? Is it sticking to the necessity of a trilateral dialogue or does it see that these proposals could be made in the framework of the national dialogue?

[Mehri] There are several things here. The proposal for a trilateral meeting is for a private meeting to discuss the necessary procedures to get the dialogue off on a serious start. That is one thing.

The aim of the dialogue is how to get things back to normal. That is the general aim. Several issues come under that aim, starting with how to get rid of the violence. Second, how to bring peace of mind to society; third, how to return to a normal constitutional life; fourth, how to go back to the people to let them elect their representatives and elect the bodies specified in the Constitution; and fifth, how to confront the economic and social conditions within the country and outside it.

When we agree on the solutions, we must stick to them. All sides must stick to them—from the Islamic to the leftist tendencies—and must form one front to implement this policy which is well known to the people. In that instance, there would be a real chance to get out of the crisis.

If, however, the heads of parties or personalities agreed and said yes, we will set up structures and participate in them, and then we will start discussing what to do, we would not go along with that proposal because putting some things before others will not solve the problem.

[Correspondent] Then, if this analysis continues, the FLN will not participate in the national conference as proposed?

[Mehri] If the issue is such, I will not participate. It is clear. We will participate if the dialogue is continuous, if the aim is to agree on a comprehensive policy which is then presented to the people and we feel that the people are responding to it, if it combines all the political forces and is a contract between these political forces for three, four, or even five years until we end all the problems.

[Correspondent] Even if all the parties agreed that there would not be, for example, elections?

[Mehri] It does not matter, as long as they all agree. I cannot believe that all parties will agree not to hold elections. Why? Because superstructures do not solve any of the problems of running a modern state. The structures of the interim presidency, an interim council can run a country like Algeria—which lies at the heart of the world—for two, three, four, or five months, a year at most. It cannot run it for years. It cannot solve the country's problems. If the people do not participate in running their own affairs, from the municipality to the presidency, the people cannot bear responsibility for the running of things. The leadership and the administration alone cannot do it. There is no modern country without bodies stemming from the people's choice.

[Correspondent] Since that is the position of the FLN, now we'll move on to the role of the military establishment in the current stage or in the next stages. The FLN made a statement to a newspaper that the army possesses all the necessary data to take a position in the country's interest. Does the FLN consider the role of the army now or in the interim period proposed by the authority to be a major and positive one?

[Mehri] Yes. The press used that statement and took it out of context. They did not mention the rest. I said the army now had all the facts and had experience. Perhaps it does not have enough experience of this type of crisis. Now, it has all the data to take a stand in the interest of the country. What is the stand that is in the interest of the country? First, we are asking the army to be united; second, to help bring about the success of a real dialogue; third, to maintain its constitutional role by protecting the constitution; fourth, in the interim period, the army should come off the streets and become a guarantor of the agreement. That is our perception of the army's position.

[Correspondent] Now, after all these responses and proposals, there have been some statements by the secretary general. You spoke about bad calculations and said that in the past the authority took or followed a policy based on wrong calculations. Today, we find ourselves facing political thoughts which are always specified by the state. Does Mr. Mehri still stick to the idea that the authority, within that framework, could make wrong calculations?

[Mehri] My beliefs are clear to everyone—the calculations of January 1992 were wrong in many aspects and issues. Because of that, we proposed in-depth discussions on issues. Restoring the dignity of the state...[pauses] We are for a strong country. I do not know of any citizen who would say no, I support a weak country. Everyone is for a strong country. How? A strong country with or without the people, a strong country with or without institutions, a strong country which has the confidence of its people

or does not. Is the modern state run by certain people or is it run by the elected bodies? Do we propose all these issues for discussion?

You cannot establish a strong country remote from the people and after that create institutions for it. You cannot. That is why we are saying it was a wrong calculation because there was an attempt... [pauses] They said when the state becomes strong, then we will conduct elections and set up institutions. That does not even happen in the films.

For a state to be strong, it must be set up by the approval and contribution of the people to the institutions. It must be based on the approval of the people in directing the country's internal and external policies. Only then can it be strong.

[Correspondent] Is it not strong now?

[Mehri] It is strong materialistically. The state remains a state, but the price that the country pays...[sentence incomplete as heard] [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] When the FLN speaks about going back to the people and the necessity of making contact with them, and from its experience in the past elections, the question now is: What is the relationship between the FLN leadership and the party's grassroots, especially since we notice some sort of absence of grassroot activities toward the platform which was elected in the last elections?

[Mehri] That poses a question: What should we do. We are not (?parrots). Either we adopt radical opposition to the people's wrong ideas, and you know what that means, or we support the current regime. The plan that our central committee endorsed was that we do not support the current regime, but we are there to help it and the country overcome the crisis. Because of that, all FLN work is characterized by that. The platform is there, the conditions for political work have shrunk considerably, and the FLN activists are coming under pressure of events and the administration—using the word administration is too little—and they are adjusting to them. I believe that their political position in society has become clearer than before because the FLN was targeted to become the means of covering up. In the past, they wanted it to be a cover up; today it is responsible for all the mistakes that are made.

[Correspondent] One last question and if you could answer it briefly: What is going to happen, since the FLN and Mr. Mehri spoke many times about future developments in Algeria—what is going to happen in Algeria after January or after the end of January 1994?

[Mehri] I hope it will be good but there are two possibilities: either we carry on with the same policy now and the country gets worse or we all—authorities and parties—have the courage to change that policy and set it in the right direction. I hope we go for the second possibility. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Efforts Seen Helping 'Rescue' Peace Talks

NC2712072293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 27 Dec 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Peace and the Last Chance," the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH said in its editorial today: The efforts of Egyptian policy and diplomacy come at a crucial time to rescue the peace talks from the crisis they have reached despite the secret negotiations in Oslo and Paris. Egyptian efforts have accompanied the peace process continuously since it started. They were always the lifesaver catching the hopes of peace and handing them over to a more progressive stage.

Observers attached great importance to the Palestinian president's talks in Cairo. They realized the significance of the statement by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the prominent Palestinian negotiator, that the Palestinian-Israeli Committee meetings in Cairo in the coming hours will be decisive. They might even be the last chance to remove the obstacles before the implementation of the autonomy agreement on Gaza and Jericho.

The paper concludes its editorial by saying: Since many are speculating that this chance is the last before the peace train leaves with no passengers, this should increase the enthusiasm of the United States, the European group, and the international community in view of the trust the Palestinians put in the international community that invited 'Arafat to sign a peace agreement before reaching a final agreement on the details of the changeover to autonomy. Naturally, discussions focus on the Israeli arena to convince Yitzhaq Rabin that there is no need to continue wasting time or stalling out of concern for peace.

Libya Said Not Cooperating on al-Kikhya Disappearance

NC2512174493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Dec 93

[Text] A responsible Egyptian source said today that the visit to Libya by Usamah al-Baz, director of President Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs, has not achieved any positive results on the fate of Libyan dissident Mansur al-Kikhya, who disappeared in Cairo. The same source added that al-Baz received no gesture of cooperation from Libyan officials on this issue. He noted that al-Kikhya's disappearance is now being handled at the security level pending the outcome of an investigation into the incident. The source said that Egypt and its people do not tolerate anyone harming Egypt's security or its guests.

So far, no official statement has been issued on the results of al-Baz's visit to Libya. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said Monday that Egypt's stance on the issue will be determined by the outcome of the security agencies' investigations.

After al-Baz's return on Tuesday, some deputies asked the government to announce the outcome of his mission to Libya and the results of investigations.

An Arab diplomatic source has clarified that the Egyptian Government's silence on al-Baz's visit shows its dissatisfaction with Libya and its conviction about that government's involvement in al-Kikhya's abduction.

Witnesses to Attack on Tourist Bus Questioned

NC2712194493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)—The Prosecution Office in Misr al-Qadimah this afternoon began investigations into the tourist bus incident that occurred in Misr al-Qadimah this morning. The Prosecution Office summoned the bus driver, Muhammad Safiyy. He said that at 0845 today, he saw at the scene of the incident two terrorists. One of them hurled what looked like a stone at the bus from the left side of the road. He said that the object hit the glass and fell to the ground, but nothing happened. He noted that, afterward, he heard an explosion and gunfire. He sped away in the bus after the explosion smashed bus windows and damaged the inside. He said that he stopped the bus after a short distance because the criminals had disappeared down a side street and because of the commotion caused by a number of injured tourists.

The Misr al-Qadimah Prosecution Office also summoned witnesses 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhanna, a bricklayer, and Rajab Jad-al-Rabb, a carpenter. Both witnesses gave the same evidence as the bus driver, but they also described the two terrorists. They noted that one of the criminals kicked the explosive charge, which did not explode. It rolled about 10 meters and then exploded near a cafe, injuring some customers. They also said that one of the two terrorists was wearing jeans and a military jacket and the other was wearing a black jacket and a gray trousers. Both terrorists, who were carrying pistols, managed to escape down a side street leading to the corniche while firing indiscriminately. The Prosecution Office decided to keep the bus and entrusted intelligence personnel to apprehend the criminals quickly. It also asked the criminal laboratory to quickly prepare a report on the incident.

Minister Promises 'Radical' Confrontation With Terrorism

NC2812142893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has affirmed that the confrontation with the corrupt elements and hirelings will be radical because there is no alternative to eliminating the ailing part of the body if we want to maintain a healthy body.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the end of the training course for new cadets at the Police Academy today, al-Alfi pointed out that the policy followed by the security agencies is one of all-out confrontation with the elements of terrorism and corruption without any delay.

The interior minister stressed that the desperate attempts as well as the mean methods used by the elements of terrorism and evil will only make the police agencies more determined to intensify their efforts at all levels to pursue the terrorist elements everywhere at all times. He pointed out that the security policy adheres to legitimacy and the rule of law during the surveillance, chasing, arrest, and questioning operations and that the law is applied without excesses or discrimination to safeguard society. He noted the security agencies' eagerness to protect the right of each individual-regardless of his identity or position—to receive decent treatment, to uphold the integrity of the law, and not to surrender society's rights.

The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, the speakers of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, and a number of ministers.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Bosnia

NC2712182893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)—Egypt has reasserted its firm and principled position condemning all aggression against the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. A Foreign Ministry statement released today to mark a day of solidarity with the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina stressed that the crimes committed against this people burdens the conscience of mankind and clearly shows the international community's failure to put an end to this tragedy.

The statement stressed that from the outset Egypt has warned that the attacks on the Muslims of Bosnia will damage the credibility of the principles, foundations, and charters on which international order is based. The statement noted in particular the ethnic cleansing that is a crime against humanity. The statement appealed to the world's conscience and called for joint action to eliminate double standards and to take action to end the Serbian aggression against Bosnia.

The statement noted that the sons of Egypt within the UN forces in Bosnia are extending their hands to its people to stave off this cruel war because Egypt believes in preventing the use of force in international relations to impose a fait accompli that runs counter to the principles of justice and international law. Concluding its statement, the Foreign Ministry expressed appreciation and gratitude for every party and international organization,

primarily the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, that have contributed to the humanitarian relief effort to help the Bosnian people. The statement emphasized the Egyptian Government's and people's continued solidarity with the great Bosnian people, whose cause is considered to be the cause of all peace-loving peoples.

Omani Oil Minister Arrives for Talks

NC2712182993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)—Omani Petroleum and Minerals Minister Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari arrived in Cairo tonight on a visit of several hours as part of his tour of a number of Arab and foreign countries.

He said that his visit is the result of a decision by the Gulf Cooperation Council, which recently meet in Riyadh, to coordinate with non-OPEC producing countries with the aim of taking positive stands toward current production policy and toward reducing production to a level that will help save the deteriorating oil market. He added that OPEC is awaiting the results of this tour and is pinning great hopes on it to unite the stands of everyone involved on a profitable oil price. He said that the brothers in Yemen expressed their willingness and absolute support for the efforts to cut production.

He noted that he will meet with Petroleum Minister Hamdi al-Banbi and discuss Oman's initiative to reduce oil production by non-OPEC countries.

Musa Receives Message From Moroccan Counterpart

NC2812131793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1213 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received a message from Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali on issues of mutual interest and bilateral relations. Musa received the message when he met Moroccan Ambassador in Cairo Abdellatif Mlin.

Referring to the Western Sahara issue, the Moroccan ambassador said in a statement after the meeting that UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali has proposed a referendum for self-determination in the Sahara before 30 June. Morocco has accepted the proposal but the other party, the Polisario, has rejected it and called for direct negotiations, which Morocco rejects.

Nilesat Satellite To Be Launched in 1996

NC2812090993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has announced that the first Egyptian satellite, Nilesat, will be launched at the beginning of 1996 as part of a strategy to maintain Egypt's media leadership.

In statements today, al-Sharif said feasibility studies will be completed in May. He explained that the satellite will have a capacity of 12, 18, and 24 television channels.

He noted that Egypt is entering an era in which specialized channels are devoted to the various fields, such as education, childhood, culture, and sport. He said transmission will cover most of the world's regions.

The information minister said Egypt has already identified the orbits of the Egyptian satellite. He said investors and businessmen will be able to subscribe to the project and added that South Africa has offered to participate.

Al-Sharif said the Egyptian international channel, which began experimental transmission in English and French for two hours a day on Eutelsat, will increase its transmission time to six hours at the beginning of the new year.

He said Egypt signed an agreement with 12 African countries to extend transmission of the Egyptian Space Channel. The necessary reception equipment and experts are available, he said.

The information minister said the media production center, which began operations in Madinat Sittah Uktubar at a cost of several billion dollars, was financed from radio and television revenue.

Libya

JANA Provides Additional al-Qadhdhafi Answers to Interview

LD2312182893 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 17 Dec (JANA)—The London-based AL-MAJALLAH magazine has published an interview with the brother leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi], from which it deliberately dropped several paragraphs.

In publishing a reply by the brother leader of the revolution to a question concerning the handing over of the two suspects in the so-called Lockerbie case, the magazine dropped the following clarification by the leader: "The Libyan state is not to blame. It has told the two suspects that they are free to go to Britain and America, and that it does not object to their going there. But they refused to go, and America rejected that they be tried in Libya. They have imposed sanctions against Libya which does not object to their going to either America or Britain, but cannot force them to go to any place they do not want to go to."

The magazine also failed to mention what the leader said about human rights and the right of the Libyan state to protect its nationals, and it dropped his statement that:

"They are violating human rights and they are saying that the two Libyans must be brought to trial before a jurisdiction that is hostile to them. Britain is a hostile country that has falsely accused them, and could falsely convict them. Therefore, what do sanctions against a country like Libya mean, and what can we do more than what we did? Libya could have opposed them going to America or Britain, and it could have rejected the case from the start. Libya could have said that it had no one called Fuhaymah or 'Abd-al-Basit [al-Miqrahi], that it had nothing to do with Lockerbie, that the American airplane had crashed in Europe and this did not concern us, that the airplane did not cross Libya and did not land in Libya, that there were no Libyans on board. Out of respect for human rights we cannot tie them up and order them to go to Britain. Therefore it is a colonialist case, a form of confrontation. It is not the first time they attack Libya and wrong it."

The magazine also dropped the leader's statement that "Libya tabled before the Security Council the case of the 1986 American aggression against it, the concerned states used the right of veto, and this was rejected by the Security Council. We are going to table the case before the Security Council a second time and embarass the Council."

In publishing the leader's answer to the third question concerning Libya's investigations with the two suspects, the magazine dropped the leader's statement that: "In the end Libya will be obliged to bring them to a public and open trial in their own country, in accordance with the Montreal convention. Anyone who has evidence will be able to present it, and a judgement will be rendered." [passage omitted]

AL-MAJALLAH also omitted some of the leader's analysis and his statement that: "At least we in the Arab world were instigating only for revolution so as to establish Arab unity, and we instigated for a war to liberate Palestine. But revolution in the Arab world took place before liberation and the same happened afterward in the world and this showed that it is not necessary when [word indistinct] a coup takes place that it will change into a revolutionary movement that might succeed or achieve its objectives.

"Many interactions have happened. I was a contemporary of five or six coups in Mauritania and the same in Yemen and Sudan. I was the contemporary of three or four kings in Saudi Arabia including the rule of King Faysal. It was possible then to say when King Faysal's rule ended that something might happen in Saudi Arabia. King Faysal went and Saudi Arabia remained, Khalid came and we said that he was a good man and then Fahd came. [passage omitted]

"Therefore, a change of style is not a condition for a revolution. A coup and liquidation of political elements will not necessarily bring about a solution. It is possible that a solution comes about through persuading the regimes and and developing them like Europe. Europeans hate each other on a personal level but they are able to establish a system. Lastly I said that the we could change the Arab League Charter and change the summit meetings into a union council. It is possible to set up an Arab union that will achieve economic and defense unity only, where a king remains a king and a president remains a president and the sultan remains a sultan. Thus, we see these developments from the experience of Europe and ours in the Arab world (?before and after us). Even in South Africa, I used to say the white should be annihilated and the (?moral) struggle continues till the whites submit to the black and the white now accepts a democratic solution in which the majority are blacks and this is through elections. [passage omitted]

The magazine carried a truncated answer of the brother leader on reality in the Arab world and the new situation in the world concerning Arab unity. Here is the answer of the brother leader to this question: "What I have warned against is the fact that the failure of the traditional regimes to establish unity, and their failure to take up a serious stand in dealing with the West turned us into slaves to the West in this dealing. They have enslaved us by our oil, by our resources, by our strategic position. Instead of us enslaving them by these resources, they have enslaved us by them. The Arab regimes have failed even to resolve the Lockerbie issue, and it has been proven that they enjoy no respect from America, Britain, and France. Many a king, president, and amir have made efforts, but regrettably it was proved that the West does not respect them. From my own experience I would say that the West does not respect the Arabs, and the West knows that its interests are not harmed by its contempt to the Arabs. It is guaranteed to the West that it can show contempt to the Arabs without harming its interests. [passage omitted]

"They [Arab regimes] are unable to liberate Palestine and to free the Arab will. The West has enslaved us by our own oil. They are unable to realize Arab unity or progress. They are unable even to change the charter of the Arab League. Why defend them? To hell with these governments, let the Islamic revolution destroy them. But I cannot understand the Islamic revolution. I fear that the West stands behind the so-called Islamic revolution. When I notice that the leaders of the Islamic action are under the protection of the American, British, German, and French intelligence, I then have a suspicion that a new Islamic state might turn out to be an ally of the West."

Regarding the return of the Palestinians to their homeland, the magazine published an incomplete answer. The answer of the brother leader to the question was like this:

"I consider this step, if realized, a strategic and a very important step in favor of peace. In my opinion if they achieved that they would have supported this agreement even without declaring that, if they took such a step it would constitute a support for Gaza-Jericho accord, [as received] and because the solution is the return of the Palestinians to their homes. This is a dream of return. If the Palestinians returned from Libya to Gaza the dream

would start to be realized. For the first time they return to Palestine after occupation and that would be the vanguard of the return, the return of the Palestinian people to Palestine and I will encourage a step like this."

Regarding the leader's saying: "I do not recognize a state called Israel" they omitted some of his answers. This is what the leader said in his answer to the magazine's question: "I do not recognize a state called Israel nor a Jewish state in the Arab world. Firstly, the whole world knows it is a mockery and a reaction to Hitler and it is one of the results of the World War II. [passage omitted]

Regarding the magazine's question on Jews of Libyan origin and the leader's answer, the magazine published a truncated answer. Here is the leader's answer: "We have a 100,000 Jews in Palestine and perhaps 4,000 in Italy and some Italians who consider themselves of Libyan origin. I am thinking of organizing them and not abandoning them by giving them help because they are [?considered on our side] and are persecuted in Palestine or what is called Israel and the Italians are persecuted in Italy because they are considered Libyans of Arab origin and have the Libyan Arab nationality. They are persecuted and are suffering a great deal, therefore I sympathize with them and we might organize them in a party or people's congresses and we have to be behind them. They said: We are persecuted in Italy and in Palestine, do not abandon us because we are Libyans. Hence I said yes you have the right to request that."

The magazine dropped the leader's remark stressing that in Libya there is a revolution, and there can be no bargaining on the revolution. The magazine did not carry the exact answer. The leader had answered the question of the magazine by saying that "in Libya there is a revolution, and there can be no bargaining on the revolution. We consider that the revolution is useful and not an adventure to mess about. Even if the revolution in itself was an adventure, it would be useful because it changes the world for the better, and because a revolution is useful then it must not be abandoned." [passage omitted]

The magazine also carried a truncated answer of the brother leader concerning the recent BBC allegations [about a coup attempt in Libya]. Here is the text of the brother leader's answer: "First, in Libya there are no armed forces. The army was abolished and there is an armed people. To start with, a number of Libyans find themselves under arms, in a popular alternation, for a number of months. Afterward they leave and they are replaced by another batch of Libyans. Now if we fight we will be fighting with 1 or 2 million Libyans trained to carry arms. There are no armed forces, nor is there an army. Besides, a coup against whom? There are people's congresses everywhere; peoples' congresses and committees everywhere. If somebody occupies the radio station, they would laugh at him. If he issues any orders, they would say to him: who are you, the congresses and committees are here." [passage omitted]

"I am not in power any more, I do not issue laws, I have nothing to do with the policy of the country. I have no political or administrative power. And if I go, who would carry out a coup, and against whom? What happened is that there were spies, and if we announce this it would cause a great deal of embarassment to a particular country. The matter could lead to submitting the case to the Security Council, and to giving Libya a justification, just like America gave itself an excuse—the attempt to assassinate Bush in Kuwait—to hit the Iraqi intelligence headquarters. We would be given the same, and an even stronger excuse if we submit the case to the Security Council. They have mentioned the names of individuals. I took them with me when I visited al-Barrani, and I presented them to the world press, saying: These are the people who, you claimed, have undertaken the coup attempt and who have been executed. The BBC has reported that such and such was a Libyan spy in Cairo, working for the CIA. Indeed he was the one who fabricated this report and released a false statement, in collaboration with the CIA, in this particular period after the imposition of sanctions against Libya. He circulated the statement and said that this happened in Libya. And, on orders from the British intelligence, London adopted the report because, surely, American intelligence is coordinating with the English intelligence at this stage in preparation for the tightening of sanctions against Libya."

Mauritania

Nation To Join Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

LD2812101393 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2300 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Excerpt] During a public session held this morning under the chairmanship of its president, Diengo Farba, the Senate passed a draft law to allow our country to join the atomic weapons [as heard] Non-Proliferation Treaty. Ahmed Salem Ould Lekhel, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, represented the government at the session.

The Senate also passed a draft law on the independence of the judiciary during another public session. Justice Minister Fao Abou Damba represented the government at the session. [passage omitted]

Opposition Party To Boycott Municipal Elections

AB2512141593 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1230 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] The Mauritanian opposition will not contest next month's legislative election as a united front. This is because some opposition parties intend to boycott the poll. Here is Salem Meshbour Salem with a report from Nouakchott:

[Begin Salem recording] The Mauritanian opposition will certainly not go to the forthcoming municipal elections as a united front. Of course, this suits the ruling

Democratic and Social Republican Party [PRDS], which was created by the present Mauritanian head of state, Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, in 1991. The PRDS has a virtual absolute majority in the two houses of parliament—the Senate and the National Assembly. The party state [as heard] will do everything it can to win the upcoming local elections, regardless of the price to pay. This is what observers in Nouakchott and part of the Mauritanian opposition believe. The leader of the Socialist and Democratic Popular Union [UPSD], Dr. Mahmoud Ould Mah, has already stated his intentions to boycott the 28 January 1994 elections.

In Nouakchott, everybody unanimously agrees that the next municipal elections will not have any popular appeal without the participation of UPSD and Dr. Mah, who was [word indistinct] and mayor of Nouakchott from 1986 to 1990. He is especially known for having never accepted government interference into the affairs of the municipality. Everybody recalls the showdown between him and the former powerful interior minister, Djebril Abdellahi, on the running of the Nouakchott mayor's office. In short, without the participation of UPSD and Ould Mah, the election campaign, which should start soon, will not be lively at all.

Nevertheless, the January 1994 elections will enable Mauritania to complete its democratic process which started in 1991. Among the contesting parties, the ones with the best chances are, of course, the ruling PRDS, the opposition Union of Democratic Forces, and the Union for Progress and Democracy of (Hamdi Ould Mouknies). [end recording]

Qatar

Turkey's Cetin Visits, Meets With Leadership

Amir Receives Cetin, Message

TA2712124893 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1100 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Video report by Turhan Ipek from Doha]

[Text] Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin was received this morning by Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad al-Thani, the amir of Qatar. Cetin gave Shaykh al-Thani a goodwill message from President Suleyman Demirel and relayed to him an invitation from Demirel. Cetin later met with Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah al-Thani, heir apparent and defense minister, and communicated to him Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's invitation to visit Turkey.

The meetings between the Turkish and Qatari delegations were held under the chairmanship of Cetin and his counterpart, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbu al-Thani. Cetin also met with 'Abadallah Bin-Hamad al-'Atiyah, Qatari energy and industry minister. Bilateral relations, as well as regional and international issues, were discussed during these meetings. An agreement on possibilities for cooperation between the two countries is expected to be signed this afternoon.

The Qatari foreign minister is giving a luncheon in honor of Cetin. Cetin will return to Turkey this evening, after holding a news conference.

Cetin Meets Counterpart

JN2712135093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Doha, 27 Dec (WAKH)—Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani met here today with Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin.

They discussed bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them. They also exchanged views on regional, Arab, and international affairs of mutual interest.

Cetin, Heir Apparent Hold Meeting

JN2712135793 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Doha, 27 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatar's heir apparent and defense minister, has received a letter from Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller concerning the ties of cooperation between the two countries.

The letter was conveyed by Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmat Cetin when his highness the heir apparent and defense minister received him and his delegation here today.

During the meeting, the two officials discussed coordination between the two countries in various political stands on world issues. They also discussed cooperation, particularly in the trade and economic fields.

Political, Economic Memos Signed

JN2812008193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Doha, 27 Dec (WAKH)—A political and economic memorandum of understanding was signed here tonight between the Qatari and Turkish Governments.

The memorandum was signed for Qatar by Foreign minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, and for the Turkish Government by Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin.

The Turkish foreign minister left Qatar last night after a two-day visit.

Yemen

'Arafat Discusses Arab Developments, Issues

Salih Briefed on Peace Talks

JN2712131093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine.

During the meeting, they discussed the recent Arab developments and issues of interest to our Arab nation. The Palestinian president briefed his brother the chairman of the Presidential Council on developments of the Palestine question in light of the Israeli procrastination as well as the obstacles to the implementation of the peace agreement signed by Israel and the PLO.

'Arafat also briefed him on the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli talks designed to implement this agreement, as well as the Palestinian people's suffering in the occupied Arab territories in terms of repression at the hands of the Israeli forces.

They also discussed a number of issues concerning relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions.

President Salih stressed our country's principled position in support of the Palestinian people's cause in order to regain their legitimate rights.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah, Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki, and Palestinian Ambassador Yahya Rabah. It was also attended by Brigadier General Abu-Humayd, commander of the Palestinian revolution forces in our country.

Al-Bid, 'Arafat Discuss Peace

JN2712205793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the Presidential Council vice chairman, this evening received brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the state of Palestine, in Aden.

They discussed ties between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions and issues of concern to the Arab nation.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, briefed brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman, on the developments in the Palestine question, taking into consideration the backdrop of the peace talks between the PLO and Israel and the challenges and difficulties facing the implementation of the peace agreement between the two parties.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid reaffirmed our country's support for the Palestinian Arab people's cause and just struggle to achieve their all of their legitimate rights.

The meeting was attended by brother Salih Nasir (?al-Shili), Aden Governor; 'Abbas Zaki, Fatah Central Committee member; and Yahya Rabah, state of Palestine ambassador to our country.

'Arafat Departs 28 Dec

JN2812124193 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, left Sanaa this afternoon following a two-day visit. During the visit, he met with brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council; 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council; and senior officials.

In a departure statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the Palestinian president said he had talks with brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, and senior officials. The talks laid emphasis on Yemeni unity, which is a source of strength for Yemen and the Yemeni people, as well as for the entire Arab nation.

Salih on Crisis, Arab Ties, Other Issues

JN2612125393 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Dec 93 p 17

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Sa'd al-Bazzaz in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Bazzaz] Talking about the international position, it has been noticed that the U.S. ambassador shuttled between Aden and Sanaa to meet with you and the brother vice president. Does this indicate U.S. mediation between both of you and the existence of a specific way of dealing with the political crisis in Yemen?

[Salih] Yes, I met with the U.S. ambassador several times. I sensed from him U.S. interest in unity, democracy, and a peaceful and friendly resolution of inter-Yemeni problems. They are of the view that this problem should be solved the same way unity was achieved. In my assessment, the United States is eager to maintain the unity. As a sponsor of the new world order, it does not want to see new hotbeds of tension, such as in Somalia and elsewhere. It does not want to see more hotbeds of tension.

[Al-Bazzaz] How true are the rumors about the existence of U.S. warships off the Yemeni shore? If this is true, what does it mean?

[Salih] This is baseless. [passage omitted]

[Al-Bazzaz] You have talked about the effects of the Gulf crisis. Yemen is one of the countries gravely harmed. The unity was also negatively affected. Undoubtedly, you are now passing through a phase of recovery and looking for a new climate of Arab relations. Let me review with you the current situation of Arab relations. Let us begin with Egypt. How do you describe your current relations with it?

[Salih] Our relations with Egypt are historical and excellent. They were baptized with blood. These relations will go on undisturbed, now and in the future.

[Al-Bazzaz] Is there any coordination between you and the Egyptian authorities concerning some dilemmas facing Egyptian security and the political life?

[Salih] We are ready to cooperate to resolve any security problem that either of the two countries can assist in, especially since the brothers in Egypt sought our cooperation after they heard that elements of the so-called jihad are arriving from Yemen. We told the Egyptian brothers that they are welcome here. If elements from the jihad are carrying out any political, security, or subversive acts against Egypt, we are ready to cooperate with the Egyptians. We do not permit any political forces from any side to carry out any activity against any Arab country. We do not allow Yemeni soil to become a den for any act of terror or sabotage. I am sure there is nothing of this sort. If anything of this has happened, perhaps it was some elements passing through Yemen. The security authorities have specific instructions not to allow these elements to stay in Yemen.

[Al-Bazzaz] Is anything new regarding relations with Saudi Arabia, especially regarding the border demarcation?

[Salih] Since the end of the Gulf war, we have been exerting efforts with the brothers in Saudi Arabia to normalize Yemeni-Saudi relations. Whether we like it or not, we are two neighboring countries. Neither of us can remove the other from the map of the region. We need the brothers in Saudi Arabia, and they need the Yemenis. Undoubtedly, things were lukewarm after the Gulf crisis. We are planning to exert efforts to normalize relations, including the issue of the Yemeni-Saudi

border. A technical committee occasionally presents its perceptions about resolving the border problem. This committee is continuing its tasks. Today, specifically, the political leadership decided to instruct the government to work swiftly to resolve the border problem within a framework that guarantees the rights of the two fraternal neighbors. This decision has been made. This issue is now being discussed by the government. I asked it to expedite the process of finding a solution to the border problem with the Saudi neighbor, in accordance with the same mechanism and method with which the border problem with Oman was resolved. This should be based on brotherly sentiments, mutual confidence, and goodwill. It is really time this problem was resolved.

[Al-Bazzaz] Do you believe it is time a personal initiative was taken to move the handling of this issue from the technical level to the level of a political initiative by you?

[Salih] The issue has been transferred to the government. This means it has been upgraded from the level of technical committees to the government and ministerial level. The government may find a sound solution.

[Al-Bazzaz] What about your relations with Oman?

[Salih] Our relations with Oman have been good and distinguished for a long time. We cooperate in all fields. We are satisfied with the level of these relations.

[Al-Bazzaz] How do you describe your relations with Iraq. Do you believe continuing the economic blockade against is justified?

[Salih] Our relations with Iraq, leadership and people, are good. At all Arab and international forums, we have said it is time to lift the blockade of the fraternal Iraqi people, especially since Iraq has complied with all the resolutions of international legitimacy.

[Al-Bazzaz] You have balanced relations with Iran. There is a general Arab need to have calm and balanced relations with the neighbors, including Iran. Now, there is a relatively calm atmosphere in relations, after the end of the Iraq-Iran war and many crises between the Arabs and Iranians. Can you do anything to achieve a great relaxation in these relations in a way that will guarantee the two sides' interests?

[Salih] Our relations are good. Many Arab states have good relations with Iran. We believe our relations with our neighbors must be good. We should cooperate with our neighbors, whether it is with Iran or with our neighbors in the Horn of Africa. Arabs must have excellent relations within a framework of mutual interests. Arabs must entrench the principle of noninterference among themselves, and with their neighbors, Iran, Turkey, and Ethiopia. This principle must be entrenched so dialogue and understanding will be chosen as the only basis for resolving problems. Estrangement between Arabs and their neighbors creates a gap between them. Continuous contact is the basis for solving all problems.

[Al-Bazzaz] When will Yemen's oil production ceiling reach a million barrel per day?

[Salih] We have the ambition to produce one million barrels or more per day. However, our production now is small, approximately 300,000-310,000 barrels per day. Companies that invest in oil need stability. Consequently, the crisis has harmed investment in the country. Economic projects can only be nourished under a canopy of security and stability.

[Al-Bazzaz] The same applies to natural gas, which needs huge funds to be exploited.

[Salih] Yes, gas as well as minerals. Any work to extract oil, gas, and minerals, or any other industrial work, needs stability. We have much hope that all political forces, parties, mass organizations, and trade unions will work with the coalition government to entrench security and stability and to abandon divisionist policies.

[Al-Bazzaz] Before unity, there was international rivalry over Yemen. There was room for conflict between the two poles that then controlled the world. Now, there is only one pole in the world. Yemeni unity was announced at the end of the bipolar system in the world. So, what form does the conflict over Yemen take? Is it a political or economic conflict? How do you view this conflict at the era of the unipolar system?

[Salih] In the past, there was real rivalry due to Yemen's geographical location. There was also an economic rivalry. Now. you can say there is a great rivalry between the United States and the European countries over oil investment, the exploration of oil, and the establishment of interests. This is the prevailing situation. We have 28 companies working in the field of oil, gas, and minerals. Rivalry is now over interests.

[Al-Bazzaz] Is it rivalry just over resources and minerals, or over the location, as well? I will give you an example: You have plans to build a new Aden through the proposed free zone. Will Aden be a subject for new rivalry through the Western return to Aden.? Will this city be another Singapore or another Hong Kong?

[Salih] Its geographical location qualifies it to be like the cities where free trade nourishes, such as Singapore and Hong Kong. However, its location is more important and strategic than any other location. It constitutes a trade location that overlooks the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea, and the Indian Ocean. It is a central point between the Arabian Peninsula and the Indian Ocean. Aden will be important for everyone in the future. [passage omitted]

Al-Bid Meets Defense Minister, Urges Neutrality

JN2712210993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, has underscored the need for the

Yemeni Armed Forces to be kept out of political differences and be promoters of unity, democracy, and peace. He stressed the need for military units to be recalled from the capital and other Yemeni cities so they may concentrate on the patriotic task of defending the homeland and safeguarding national achievements, above all unity and democracy.

Al-Bid's remarks were made at a meeting today with top Defense Ministry officials and commanders of military units in the country's economic capital, Aden. The Yemeni unity that came into being on 22 May, 1990 was a strategic goal for which the Yemeni people made sacrifices over many years of struggle and martyrdom, al-Bid added.

The vice chairman of the Presidential Council called attention to the importance of grasping developments on the national scene, notably the changes brought on by unity and democracy. He pointed out the need to address security problems, apprehend and prosecute outlaws, improve living conditions, and curb inflation. Al-Bid urged the Armed Forces to act as guardians of Yemen's unity and democracy and honor the memory of the martyrs who fell to illuminate the path to the Yemeni revolution.

He emphasized the necessity of taking care of the Yemeni individual, who, he stressed, is the true wealth of the homeland.

Al-Bid began his remarks by wishing his visitors a happy new year, which he hoped will bring harmony and amity to Yemen and its people.

In the name of the Armed Forces, brother Haytham Qasim Tahir, the defense minister, thanked al-Bid for his time. He stated that the Yemeni Armed Forces are committed to unity and democracy.

Amman May Host Meeting Between Salih, al-Bid

JN2612111793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Dec 93 pp 1, 22

[By Ahmad Shakir]

[Text] The Jordanian capital is expected to host soon a historic meeting between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid under the patronage of His Majesty King Husayn. This meeting would crown Jordanian efforts to achieve reconciliation between the two great leaders, if an agreement in principle is reached in Sanaa on a number of demands by al-Bid.

Jordanian diplomacy is continuing efforts to bring the viewpoints of Salih and al-Bid closer together. His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, may soon visit Sanaa for the third time to convey royal messages to Salih and al-Bid.

In a telephone conversation on the possibility of Amman hosting a meeting between the two leaders, Dr. Fayiz al-Rabi', Jordan's Sanaa ambassador, said everything is possible. The Jordanian initiative is the major way to save the situation there. His Majesty King Husayn enjoys the appreciation and respect of all parties, he said.

Al-Rabi' said there are signs of a detente in the Yemeni crisis. All parties are determined to avoid reaching the point of no return or closing the doors to dialogue. There is a determination to put the supreme national interest above all other considerations.

The reconciliation committee, formed from all Yemeni parties, is continuing its efforts to bring closer the viewpoints of the two large parties led by Salih and al-Bid, al-Rabi' said.

Opposition Groups Urge End of Baghdad Regime

JN2612204493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1705 GMT 26 Dec 93

[Text] Damascus, 26 Dec (SANA)—The coordination and follow-up committee of the Islamic and pan-Arab trends in Iraq has stressed that ending the unbearable tragedy of the Iraqi people and safeguarding the march of the Iraqi opposition requires this opposition to consolidate its parties, agree on major common objectives, and give priority to the more important issues.

This came in a statement issued by the committee here today at the end of two meetings held in Damascus that looked into what could be offered to the Iraqi issue and what could be contributed in order to end the tragedy in Iraq in light of the developments and realities that were revealed on the objectives and dimensions of the conspiracy.

The committee stressed that toppling the Iraqi regime is an irrevocable central objective. It also stressed the impossibility of coexisting with the Iraqi regime despite the misleading slogans it is raising and the concessions, promises, and guarantees it is offering to the opposition and to the regional and international perimeters. This is because the Iraqi regime is a corrupted regime—in essence and nature—and one cannot reform it, reach an understanding with it, or trust it.

Moreover, the committee stressed the importance of establishing a regime that respects the sovereignty of law and human rights so that the future Iraq will provide a decent life for the Iraqi people. It noted that without achieving this joint objective, Iraq will be a country of misery, anxiety, and instability.

The committee stressed the unity of Iraq, the unity of its territory, people, and entity. It also stressed that national unity in an Iraq that provides a decent life for all people is something that serves the interests of all those who enjoy their rights and perform their duties with equality and without discrimination.

The committee also called on all regional forces and governments to take quick measures to save the people of the marshlands in southern Iraq as well as the people of Kurdistan from the methods of annihilation and slow death used against them.

The statement noted that the committee discussed the national constants that could become the basis of the Iraqi opposition's unity. Without denying the importance of an objective regional decision and an influential international decision, which cannot be ignored or discarded, it is important that the Iraqi opposition make the first decision.

Concluding the statement, the committee saluted the struggling people of Iraq, its pious martyrs, the men and women detained in the Iraqi regime's prisons, the displaced people, and the Army of Iraq, which was and will remain the army of the Iraqi people.

PUK Radio Notes Kurdish Fighting, Peace Appeal

JN2612172593 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1610 GMT 26 Dec 93

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Brother listeners: Battles raged last night and today between the forcers of the ally, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], and the Islamic Movement in Iraqi Kurdistan in the city of Irbil. Today, the fighting expanded to al-Sulaymaniyah, Kuysanjaq, 'Arabit, Khurmal, Kifri, Kallar, and other areas. Shops were closed and Irbil traffic came to a halt.

Despite serious efforts by our party leader, brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani and our party, as well as fraternal consultations with the brothers in the PUK leadership and the movement's representatives to avert an expansion in military operations, what we all have feared and tried to avoid by all means has happened.

This internal fighting, irrespective of its circumstances and justifications, cannot serve the cause of our people. It contributes to the indignation of the people and civilians and encourages the enemies of the elected Kurdish administration to undermine the conditions in Iraqi Kurdistan.

We appeal to all warring forces to exercise self-control, stop the fighting, and desist from causing more suffering to our besieged people. This fighting harms everybody and undermines the credibility of the burgeoning Kurdish administration and erodes the world's understanding of our cause. We appeal to the warring parties to adhere to the agreement reached in Salah-al-Din last night. We appeal to our party's masses, bases, and forces to remain alert to enemy maneuvers aimed at exploiting the opportunity to exacerbate the situation. We appeal to you to mediate between the warring sides whenever possible to stop this bloody confrontation.

By adopting this neutral position, we do not mean to exploit the results of this fighting to serve narrow partisan interests. This is a sincere call from our heart to stop the fighting and adhere to the logic of dialogue and understanding to save our people from the catastrophe of infighting, on which the enemies of our people are wagering.

In order to preserve the supreme people's interest, we must not adhere to our pride and short-term interests. For the sake of peace and stability in Kurdistan, we must sacrifice our partisan self-esteem for the sake of our people's security and safety. Our people's interest and peace in Kurdistan require an immediate and unconditional halt to military operations.

DPK, Communists Urge End to Kurdish Fighting

JN2712172493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] A delegation from the Political Bureau of our unified Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] and a

delegation from the Iraqi Kurdish Communist Party met at our party headquarters in the resort town of Salah al-Din today in order to discuss the continuing fighting and clashes in the towns of Kurdistan, especially in Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah.

The two sides strongly condemn and deplore these clashes, which have invited the wrath and indignation of the masses of Kurdistan, who feel that these clashes have dealt a great blow to the people of Kurdistan and their democratic experiment. Therefore, we urgently and sincerely appeal to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Islamic Movement in Kurdistan to stop fighting everywhere in accordance with the agreement signed under brother Mas'ud Barzani's supervision in Salah al-Din on 25 December.

Once again we appeal for a halt to all military hostilities. We are motivated by our concern for our people's democratic experiment. These hostilities lead to instability and anarchy. Regrettably, the groups have not abided by the 25 December agreement.

Barzani Message Blames Both Sides for Fighting

JN2712184993 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1740 GMT 27 Dec 93

["Message" addressed to the people of Iraqi Kurdistan by Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, on 27 December—read by announcer]

[Text] To the masses of Kurdistan: While sharing your suffering and expressing our denunciation of the fighting in towns, I feel it is my duty to announce to you that on the first day of this disaster, which began in Raniyah, we tried to control the situation. This was done by an agreement between brother Jalal Talabani and myself. We agreed not to allow fighting to spread to the towns in any form and to refer the culprits to justice. This agreement was reached the same day we signed the strategic agreement. The Iraqi Kurdistan region's presidential council was informed.

The under secretaries of the ministries of peshmerga affairs and interior were dispatched to the Raniyah area and they issued a number of decisions. They were not heeded, however, and the clashes continued.

I personally took part in the meetings of the two political bureaus to stop the fighting, particularly preventing the fighting from spreading to the towns. However, nobody heeded the agreement, and heavy weapons were used inside large cities. Regrettably, what should not have happened has happened. Peaceful citizens have suffered great losses.

It is true that the Islamic Movement began the fighting in al-Sulaymaniyah and inside Irbil. The truth is, however, that at the same time, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan began an offensive against the Islamic Movement Headquarters in Baytwatah. This contravened our agreements. We also found out that the peshmerga affairs minister ignored the cable of the two political bureaus and did not meet with the committee that we sent concerning the reinforcement of the cease-fire decision that was agreed to on 25 December in line with the Kurdistan region's government. I also sent a cable to the peshmerga affairs minister to stop the offensive. He, however, gave himself powers that were outside the law.

We were neither informed of nor consulted about the disturbance in Kifri, or the disaster in Raniyah and elsewhere. We were not party to these things. Nevertheless, we are responsible and cannot remain spectators while the towns are exposed to fire from various weapons and when people's conditions are harmed. I am reviewing the situation seriously and I am studying the next moves so that the law will be the judge; otherwise, we will not put up with this situation.

[Signed] Mas'ud Barzani
[Dated] 27 December 1993

Fighting Among Kurd 'Subversives' Detailed

JN2712202993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Reports coming today from the Kurdistan Autonomous Region say that fierce fighting has been raging for the past two days among the subversive agent cliques.

The cities of Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah last night and this morning came under heavy artillery and mortar shelling. Street battles raged between Jalal Talabani's clique and groups from the Kurdish Islamic Movement.

Fighting spread to other villages and towns, such as Klar, Khurmal, Darbandikhan, Chamchamal, Kifri, Halabjah, (?Duwarkurnah), Hajiawa-i, (?Biswansah), [words indistinct] Qal'at Dizah, and Hab al-Sultan Dagh. There were many dead and wounded on both sides. Houses and shops were also damaged. Amidst these chaotic conditions, saboteurs were looting stores in the afflicted villages and towns.

Another report says that agent Jalal Talabani has warned elements from the so-called Islamic Movement against joining Mas'ud Barzani's group. He said he will pursue them.

Mas'ud Barzani blamed agent Jalal Talabani's group for moving the battles into the cities. Mas'ud Barzani also said he has resigned his membership in the so-called presidency of the Kurdistan Region and that he will not remain on the sidelines, watching this tragic situation. He stated that law and order in Kurdistan must be preserved; otherwise, regrettable events will follow.

Talabani Said To Gain Upper Hand in Fighting

NC2712181693 London Kanal-6 Television in Turkish 1700 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] It has been reported that Talabani has gained the upper hand in clashes among the Kurdish groups in northern Iraq. The Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan

[PUK], led by Jalal Talabani, announced that 'Uthman 'Abd-al-'Aziz, leader of the pro-Iranian Iraqi Kurdistan Islamic Movement Party, has been detained.

According to a statement issued by the PUK's mission in Ankara, all the Islamic Movement's bases, except the one in Halabjah, have been captured. The leader of the Islamic Movement Party has been taken to Irbil by the PUK. The statement said that the Islamic Movement's headquarters in al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil have been captured.

Bloody battles between the sides have been taking place in northeast Iraq, near the border with Iran, for the last two weeks.

PUK Radio Explains Fighting With Islamic Movement

NC2712201193 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1532 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: In the past few days, some areas of Kurdistan were the scenes of regrettable events in which dozens were killed and dozens of others injured. Most of the injured or killed were unarmed civilians. These events were halted and brought under control thanks to the heroic operations carried out by the brave peshmerga. Credit should also go to the intensive efforts on the part of officials of the government of Kurdistan and the representatives of the struggler Kurdish parties.

News agencies and international radio stations have broadcast reports on these events. We, in turn, present the following report about what actually happened.

On 19 December, a group of 500 fighters belonging to the Islamic Movement of Iraqi Kurdistan, armed with both heavey and light weapons, assaulted the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's [PUK] committee headquarters in Raniyah and took all six members of the committee hostage. Among them was the struggler Muhammad Sultan, who is active in the Heritage Center. The attackers ransacked the place. Their pretext for the attack was that some of their members had been killed in a personal quarrel between PUK fighters and the Islamic Movement near Qada' Kifri.

To give the government of Kurdistan and its officials the opportunity to investigate the incident, the PUK remained silent about this blatant assault and did not carry out any acts of revenge.

PUK Secretary General Jalal Talabani informed the brother strugglers in the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK], our allies, of these developments, urging that efforts be made to calm the situation as rapidly as possible.

During various meetings, several agreements were concluded with representatives of the abovementioned movement in Kurdistan's cities with the help of the representatives of other Kurdish parties, notably the allied DPK. The Kurdistan Presidential Council issued an urgent call, signed by brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani, to halt all armed clashes immediately and to send an Islamic Movement delegation to the Presidential Council to discuss ways to defuse the situation and foster an appropriate climate for dialogue and agreement.

Regrettably, the Islamic Movement did not honor the pledge it signed in front of the representatives of all the Kurdish parties, promising to remain calm and refrain from any acts that harmed the citizens of Kurdistan's cities. It perpetrated several brutal terrorist operations against unarmed citizens. These acts were totally foreign to tolerant Islamic traditions.

Indisputable evidence makes us certain that this hireling movement received formal instructions from its leaders to carry out military operations inside the cities with the aim of causing confusion and instability among the citizens in Kurdistan's populous areas and escalating tension in the region. Its members used mosques, schools, and homes as shields.

On 25 December, an armed group belonging to the terrorist movement attacked the PUK Committee Headquarters in Khurmal and killed all the members there. At 1530 on the same day, another group from the agent movement assaulted the National Relations Headquarters in al-Sulaymaniyah, killing everyone there.

To coincide with these two assaults, another group from the terrorist movement assaulted the Kurdistan Women's Union Headquarters, damaging the building.

The forces of the same movement bombarded residential areas with artillery provided to them by suspect regional quarters. The shelling spread panic among the citizens, many of whom were victims of the attack.

In response to these terrorist acts that endangered citizens' security, the PUK decided to carry out its duty to defuse the situation and eliminate the [words indistinct] hotbeds of tension. At 0500 on 16 December [as heard], the peshmerga forces began an all-out offensive against all the terrorist group's centers and assembly points in Kurdistan. In a lightning operation that lasted a few hours, all the terrorist dens belonging were brought under control, including the terrorist movement's headquarters and the building housing its political bureau in (Bitwin), its centers in al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, Arabit, Raniyah, Darbandikhan, and elsewhere. Many of the movement's members were taken prisoner. Some surrendered to the peshmerga, and others were captured during the purging operations. All the weapons and equipment they possessed were seized, including 600 Grad rockets and various types of other heavy weapons. Calm, order, and stability were restored to Kurdistan's cities and villages late yesterday evening.

'Just Punishment' Inflicted on Two 'Agents'

NC2712163693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] A heroic group of Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] fighters have inflicted the people's just punishment on the agent 'Umar Shahin and his brother Tawfiq. At the instigation of the Iraqi regime, the two agents assassinated five peshmerga strugglers of the PUK.

The public in Kurdistan, especially the citizens of al-Sulaymaniyah, joyfully received the news that the just punishment had been visited on these two criminals.

Article Criticizes U.S. Anti-Iraq 'Hysteria'

JN2512102593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 25 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Dec (INA)—BABIL has described the U.S. political campaign against Iraq as a desperate attempt by the U.S. Administration to distract attention from the U.S. economic impasse.

In an article today under the headline "The Naughty Boy," the paper compares the state of the wavering U.S. President, Bill Clinton, as he talks about human rights and democracy for illegitimate U.S. political and economic reasons to that of the seller of a rotten merchandise who makes the loudest noise on the market to promote his goods.

The paper adds: It is no coincidence that the U.S. President makes more than one anti-Iraq statement in a week. These statements remind us of the Washington-led comprehensive aggression against Iraq, but this time under different circumstances.

The paper indicates that the hostile U.S. statements against Iraq this time coincide with Iraq's implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and the emergence of a strong pro-Iraq trend inside and outside the Security Council, to such an extent that the UN secretary general himself has acknowledged Iraq's cooperation with the United Nations.

The paper affirms that the recent U.S. hysteria against Iraq reflects the bankruptcy and despair dominating the minds of U.S. politicians and constitutes a new international terrorist attempt against the United Nations itself and the states that are considering changing their position on Iraq in the interest of their own people and of the Iraqi people.

In conclusion, the paper refers to Washington's concerns, fostered by the U.S. President's policy toward Europe, Japan, China, and North Korea, in addition to all the hot issues that the Americans can do without; namely, problems with Iraq, Sudan, and Libya. Moreover, a greater concern should be the success of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party and the Communist Party in the recent Russian elections.

Paper Condemns GCC Resolutions, Fahd 'Treason'

JN2512114593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 25 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Dec (INA)—AL-'IRAQ has condemned "the aggressive resolutions of the recent so-called Gulf Cooperation Council summit against Iraq and its people."

In an article today under the headline "Fahd and the Quagmire of Treason," the paper says that from the outset, this summit was controlled by Saudi ruler Fahd. It has not attempted, even formally, to call for Arab solidarity and renouncing Arab differences. Rather, it devoted its efforts to antagonizing Iraq and fabricating charges and lies against it.

The paper adds: This reflects the belligerent policy that the Saudi ruler has exercised and continues to exercise against the patient and steadfast Iraqi people. Thanks to their patience, struggle, and the wisdom of their leadership, the Iraqi people have managed to heal the wounds that have been left by the treachery of Fahd and the rest of the traitors when they opened the gates for the armies of infidelity, atheism, and the ill-omened coalition to desecrate the holy land in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and to turn it into a springboard for the largest military aggression in modern times.

The paper affirms that Fahd is a full and effective partner to all evil plots and objectives set by the enemies of the Arabs to dismantle the Arab nation. In addition, he has a disgraceful role in the ongoing suspicious deals with the Zionist entity.

In this regard, the paper refers to recent Zionist-Saudi talks on the Sanafir islands in the Gulf of Aqaba in the Red Sea. The paper says that these talks were preceded by U.S.-blessed meetings between Saudi and Zionist officials on various levels.

In conclusion, the paper says that after all this, Fahd need not talk about Arab solidarity and the Arab boycott of the Zionist entity. Being totally U.S.-controlled, Fahd is too far from such objectives.

Oil Ministry Plans To Enhance Production

JN2712162193 Baghdad INA in English 1425 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 27, INA—Minister of oil has said that his ministry has worked out a new plan to enhance oil and gas explorations during 1990s decade and the beginning of the 21st Century.

Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad added that Oil Explorations Company has started the implementation of the new plan which aims at increasing the country's wealth of gas and oil.

He added that six seismological teams have been formed to carry out surveys and explorations of gas and oil in

al-Basrah, Wasit, al-Anbar, and Ninawah Provinces and the western desert and south-east of the Euphrates.

According to the minister each team has to survey some 5,000 km annually, indicating that results of the surveys are thoroughly studied and analysed in an advanced centre for computer.

The minister went on to say that the ministry's staff have dug a number of wells in different parts of the country, adding that the staff will dig a number of wells in al-Anbar, Salah al-Din, Maysan, al-Basrah, Wasit, and Diyala Provinces.

Dr. Jawad added in addition to conducting surveys and excavations, the teams are also entrusted with carrying out geophysics, geological and laboratory tests, noting that the teams comprises some 1300 specialists in geophysics, geology and engineering.

Despite of the difficulties emanating from the trade sanctions and lack of spare parts and special equipment and devices needed to carry out surveys, the teams have managed to achieve remarkable result.

UN Permission for Weekly Amman Flight Sought

JN2712152093 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 22 Dec 93 p 7

[Report by Fatah al-Huli]

[Text] Iraqi Airways Director General Nur-al-Din al-Safi has said the company is seeking permission from the UN Sanctions Committee to fly a Jordanian plane between Baghdad and Amman for humanitarian reasons. He said: A request has already been filed with the committee and we hope we will be given the permission.

Al-Safi said he requested one weekly flight to fly sick passengers to Amman. He added that the Jordanian parties have agreed to cooperate with the Iraqi side to fly a Jordanian plane for humanitarian reasons once the committee grants its permission.

Sudanese Minister Delivers Message to Ramadan

JN2312160193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has received a letter from Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, Sudanese vice president.

In his letter, conveyed by Sudanese Social Planning Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, whom Ramadan received today, the Sudanese vice president expressed Sudan's satisfaction with its advanced relations with Iraq. The letter stressed a genuine desire to expand and promote bilateral relations in all areas and emphasized that both the Sudanese leadership and people take pride in Iraq's courageous positions and support Iraq in confronting the fiercest methods of aggression.

Ramadan reiterated Iraq's principled position in support of Sudan and its readiness to contribute to any area of development. In this regard, he pointed to President Saddam Husayn's directives on placing all Iraqi capabilities, resources, and experience at the service of fraternal Sudan, as the Iraqi experience is a property of the Arab nation and is devoted to the latter's progress and awakening.

Central Bank Licenses 28 Money Exchange Companies

JN2712162393 Baghdad INA in English 1410 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 27, INA—The Iraqi Central Bank has given permissions to 28 private sector hard-currency exchange companies, ALIF BA' weekly magazine reported last week.

The magazine said the aim of these companies is to regulate the exchange of foreign currencies in Iraq.

The establishment of these companies comes following a decision taken by the bank in 1992 allowing private investors to set up banks and exchange companies.

Saddam Allots 450 Million Dinars to Schools

JN2212210593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Iraq's teachers have expressed deep love for and pride in leader President Saddam Husayn's noble sponsorship of the educational sector to boost the educational process in Iraq. This emerged in a cable addressed by Hatim 'Ali al-'Udayli, head of the Teachers Union, to the leader president on the occasion of the allocation of 450 million dinars to support the comprehensive national campaign for building schools.

The cable says this noble gesture will contribute to the creation of a revolutionary generation equipped with faith, science, and knowledge. The cable adds that this gesture is evidence of the love the leader president has for knowledge and his sponsorship of education and the educational community.

In their cable, the teachers pledged to do their best, and continue to give and devote their capabilities to create a generation that meets the aspirations of the Ba'th Party and the revolution and the interests of Iraq and the Arab nation.

Imams Hail Efforts To Promote Koran Teaching

JN2412160193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Mosque imams and preachers have commended the efforts being made to achieve success in the drive ordered by His Excellency mujahid leader President

Saddam Husayn to foster piety and promote the teaching and memorizing of the holy Koran.

In their Friday prayers sermons today, they stressed that this blessed drive is a sincere and devout call to study the holy Koran and observe the precepts of the true Muslim faith and follow the sunna of the great Prophet Muhammad.

The imams and preachers underlined the need to maximize efforts to ensure the success of this campaign and to advance the society's well-being. They also urged everyone adhere to true Arab and Islamic values and customs. They prayed to Almighty God to preserve His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn as a crutch for Arabs and Muslims and to grant the Iraqi people and Army abiding dignity and victory and to bring peace, security, and stability to the entire Muslim world.

Rabin Warns Syria To Uphold Agreements

TA2812153693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warned Syria that if agreements and understandings already reached—especially after Operation Accountability—are not honored, it will be much harder to negotiate and arrive at new agreements. At a news conference in Qiryat Shemona after a tour of south Lebanon, the prime minister said there has been a deviation from the understandings reached at the conclusion of Operation Accountability since the terrorists are exploiting the civilian settlements in south Lebanon as a base for activity and for shelling. Damascus and Beirut must uphold the understandings as a condition for the continuation of the negotiations, Rabin said.

Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that the prime minister stressed that Israel has a deep commitment to the residents of south Lebanon and the SLA [South Lebanese Army], which operate together with us. A condition for any peace is that no civilian living in south Lebanon is harmed and that the SLA be incorporated into the Lebanese Army when the time comes.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin also talked about the Cairo talks and said there are still problems in the negotiations with the PLO on all the issues in dispute, but that he believes they will be gradually overcome.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 28 December carries a report by Menahem Horowitz about Rabin's news conference. In a recorded passage, Rabin says: "I suppose the Syrians could curtail terrorist activities, and I am convinced that they are not doing so. Of course, Hizballah does its own thing, but I am sure that much more could be done to calm down the situation in this area, both directly and through the vast influence Syria exercises on the Lebanese Government."

[Asked whether Israel might leave the security zone, Rabin responds: "Nonsense. We have no intention whatsoever of leaving the security zone since we regard it as a first-rate element upholding the security of the population. We are committed to our partnership with the SLA and to the local Lebanese inhabitants, and we have no intention whatsoever of leaving the security zone. If and when we reach an agreement with Lebanon, we will not agree to a peace which in any way harms the Lebanese inhabitants of the security zone, certainly not those who together with us uphold their own and our security."]

Progress Said Reached at 'Secret Talks' in Rome

TA2612200093 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Dec 93

[Studio talk between announcer Hayim Yavin and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik—live]

[Excerpts] [Yavin] Major General Amnon Shahaq, the deputy chief of staff, and Jacques Neriya, the prime minister's political adviser, tonight returned to Israel from secret talks with senior PLO officials in Rome. The talks addressed the possibility that Israel would allow deported senior PLO officials to return to the territories. Gadi Sukenik, was anything concluded in those talks?

[Sukenik] Well, as you said, the talks are secret. As far as we know, adequate progress was made. Although nothing was concluded, the issue of whether several deportees are to return to the territories made some progress. The most prominent of these is Jibril al-Rajub, an aide to 'Arafat and the man in charge of the West Bank fugitives, who had petitioned to be allowed to return, as well as others, such as Muhammad Dahlan, who did not petition the authorities.

[Yavin] Tomorrow our delegation will travel to Cairo to resume the negotiations. Are any special preparations under way?

[Sukenik] There are two tracks at stake here. One is Cairo, and our delegation will leave for those talks aboard a special plane at midday tomorrow. [passage omitted]

As for the secret track, it should be noted that one meeting was held in Geneva two weeks ago. It was attended by Shahaq, Neriya, and Shin Bet representatives, as well as Dahlan and al-Rajub. The second meeting—slated to take place a few days ago in Paris and postponed by Israel—was evidently held yesterday in Rome. This track is maintained concurrently with the first, and its purpose is to ease the situation in the security sense: to dig the fugitives out of their hideouts, to make them surrender their weapons, and to release them, and in parallel, to allow a few deportees to return from Tunis to the territories.

[Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 26 December reports that "five Fatah Hawks fugitives surrendered themselves to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the Gaza Strip today." The report adds that "they reported to the military government offices and were released after a brief interrogation."]

Paper Analyzes 'Arafat's 'Mental Condition'

TA2312171793 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 17 Dec 93 pp 1, 2

[Analysis by No'omi Levitsky: "What Happened to the Chairman"]

[Text] From Yasir 'Arafat's point of view, things do not look too good this week. Some three months after the famous handshake with Rabin, he already looks like somebody carrying a sack of hot potatoes on his back. He has gained more extensive international recognition than ever before, but since there is no agreement he is fast losing ground.

Inside the PLO, criticism is growing over the way he is handling things, and outside there is a spate of very unflattering reports about his unstable mental condition. He is under pressure. On the one hand, he is in a rush to reach a settlement, since he wants the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] out of Gaza and Jericho, while on the other, he says he has reached the limits of his concessions.

"I have given everything I have to give," he tells anyone prepared to listen. "I recognized Israel, I abandoned terrorism. That is what I had to give, I do not have anything else." He is in a dilemma. He has to appear to be a compromiser to his Israeli interlocutors while to his fellow Palestinians he wants to look tough. That is a problem.

Since he does not lack Israeli interlocutors these days—everybody is racing to meet him, from Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer to Yossi Ginosar—each one finds him in a different mood. Sometimes, he appears to be relaxed and calm and a week later he behaves as though he is on the verge of a nervous breakdown. One person reports that he looks fine, another that he is a pack of nerves. So what is really happening to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat these days?

Anyone who has met 'Arafat recently finds it hard to believe what he sees. He begs and shouts, is angry and then conciliatory, just like a child whose lollipop has been taken away from him. One minute he smiles, and suddenly the big show starts. What is happening to him, I asked a senior Israeli 'Arafat expert. "It is part of his negotiating tactics," he replied. "We are used to this method. He has a developed dramatic sense. It is hard to know whether the outbreaks are genuine or part of the show."

Rabin was also somewhat shocked this week. He received the impression that when discussing details 'Arafat was at his full wits. They held a tete-a-tete meeting without witnesses or a protocol. The discussion focused on the border crossings. No other issue came up on the agenda. Rabin said that under the Oslo agreement external security was Israel's responsibility, therefore we must control the border crossings.

What external security problems do you have there? 'Arafat asked. Are there security problems with Egypt? No. Do you have security problems with Jordan? No. Israel and Jordan are on the verge of signing a peace treaty. It was a tough but businesslike conversation. What angered 'Arafat in particular is that the Jordanians urged Peres not to give the PLO control of the bridges.

Suddenly 'Arafat bent toward Rabin as though he was about to whisper a secret. His eyes were wide open and looked heavenward. "Mr. Prime Minister," he whispered in a pleading voice, "help me, understand me, I am in trouble, you know, so help me, understand me."

Rabin, it must be said, was bewildered, to put it mildly. He is not the sort of person to deal with such a sudden outburst of emotions, certainly not from Yasir 'Arafat.

'Arafat claims that Rabin is humiliating him. He hardens his positions, does not release prisoners. "I am being made a hostage of the agreement by Rabin," he told one of his associates. When Sha'th, 'Abd-Rabbuh and Sheves tried to reach an understanding they were overruled. Neither Rabin nor 'Arafat agreed to budge from their positions. It seemed as though each, for his own reasons, needed that crisis.

Sources in the defense establishment attribute the rumors regarding 'Arafat's volatile mental condition to a psychological warfare campaign waged by the agreement's opponents. 'Arafat's anger tantrums had become proverbial a long time ago. Occasionally somebody makes use of this unpleasant characteristic of 'Arafat for his own purposes.

Already more than one year ago rumors began to spread regarding the PLO chairman's alleged unstable mental condition. This followed the plane crash in which 'Arafat was wounded. At that time reports started filtering into Israel regarding depression spells, chronic headaches, and loss of memory. Later he underwent surgery in Jordan. Authoritative sources in Israel at the time determined that the chairman is in satisfactory condition.

The root of the present problem can be found in the first meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin in Cairo last October. This meeting was prepared, on the Israeli side, by Shim'on Sheves and Hayim Ramon, and by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh on the Palestinian side. It was an extremely successful meeting, and 'Arafat, who suddenly found himself soaring on a wave of unexpected popularity, contracted a mild attack of euphoria. For a couple of weeks he floated in bliss, until the painful landing and the accompanying sobering up process.

It was a very hard landing. The negotiations with Israel became lengthy and entangled. 'Arafat found himself faced with an Israeli delegation which was much tougher than he had anticipated. At the same time the agreement's opponents fiercely attacked him. They called him a collaborator, a traitor; a contract was taken out on him. People said he was turning the PLO into another SLA [South Lebanese Army]. The Jordanian security services already nicknamed him "General 'Arafat Lahd."

One of the senior Israelis negotiating with 'Arafat this week explained 'Arafat's situation in the following words: " 'Arafat's dilemma is how to receive from Israel what he wants while maintaining the appearance of one who is fighting for independence. How to calm Israel on the one hand, the Palestinians on the other. In my opinion, at the basis of the present crisis with 'Arafat is his constant fear that the PLO will turn into a second SLA."

Suddenly 'Arafat started to evince tougher stands. It became apparent that just like Rabin, he too was suffering from the Oslo agreement syndrome. Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], and Hassan 'Asfur, the architects of the agreement, were sharply criticized by him. Just like Rabin, 'Arafat, too, started complaining

about loopholes, vague formulations, and incomplete clauses to be found in the agreement.

'Arafat told Jacques Neriya he gathered from his people that the Jericho area is supposed to extend all the way between the Damiya Bridge, the 'Abdallah Bridge, and al-Qarantal. "If I did not think this was the case, I would not have signed the agreement," 'Arafat gesticulated angrily. Rabin immediately checked the issue with Uri Savir and Yo'el Singer. "We never said such a thing," the two answered him.

From talks with people who are intimately acquainted with 'Arafat, the chairman emerges as harsh, dictatorial, extremely centralized, and edgy. His associates despise him not only because of his looks. On the one hand he serves for the Palestinians as a symbol of national struggle and liberation. At the present time he has no replacement. On the other hand it is impossible to hear one good word about him even from his associates.

His 30-year struggle to survive is perhaps the key to understanding his personality. His life has been endangered for years and is now more than ever. He is a man of contrasts. He is the undisputed leader of the PLO, nobody dares to question that, but the criticism is devastating. He runs around like crazy from capital to capital, lives in aircraft. Instead of staying in one place and running the shop, instead of handing down instructing to the teams, as he should, he runs around the world, begging for donations like a panhandler.

His photograph makes the newspapers daily, and each day he smiles from a different country, next to some prime minister or president. Honor is important to him. "I am a president without lands, without a state," he says, "so what is left for me, only honor and homage." But most of the criticism is now being leveled by his own people. To them he appears less and less a president or chairman and more and more like a Flying Dutchman.

Suspicious and a lone wolf, he does not believe anybody and does not trust anybody. Nabil Sha'th must report each move, each proposal to him. If he finds out that Sha'th has offered something that did not originate with him, 'Arafat stops it immediately. After Sha'th presented to the Israeli delegation a 15-page document which appeared especially tough to the Israelis, 'Arafat had one of his fits of anger. He came down hard on Sha'th. The document is too compromising, 'Arafat told him.

Israel also presented a document with tens of pages of details, but which only complicated the situation further. But what really drove 'Arafat mad were two pages which dealt with the issue of human rights. He could not believe his eyes: Israel, which keeps thousands of Palestinians in administrative detention without trial, and after six years of intifadah, tells him how to act on human rights. He saw that as mocking the poor.

Israel for its part suspects him of knowing more about the POW's and MIA's than he claims: the half of the military ID tag that was suddenly discovered and the information provided by the Palestinians, led those responsible to suspect that there are other things 'Arafat knows and is not telling.

At this stage the situation in Cairo started to get really entangled and the negotiations approached a dead end. Dennis Ross suggested to open a direct channel with 'Arafat. Ross heard that 'Arafat has praised Jacques Neriya, the prime minister's political adviser, and suggested to Rabin that a direct link could solve several problems. Rabin bought the idea.

'Arafat was not exhilarated by the meeting with Peres in Spain. Not only does he have to constantly maneuver between the various PLO factions and between Arab leaders, he ruminated, now he also has to tread warily between Peres and Rabin. Peres, however, requested this meeting, and 'Arafat acquiesced. 'Arafat later said the meeting was short, 20 minutes at most, while Peres' aides said it lasted more than one hour. From 'Arafat's viewpoint even this disparity was good cause for a serious headache.

'Arafat had no problem was Jacques Neriya. Their first meeting was held on 29 November. At 0100, as is his want, 'Arafat summoned Neriya to his office. The meeting was rather relaxed. They spoke for three hours, half the time in Arabic, half in English. Their second meeting was stormy. Neriya was joined by Colonel 'Amos Gil'ad, who took the minutes.

The meeting started calmly enough. 'Arafat called Neriya "my friend Jacques," and 'Amos was called "Gil'ad my friend." Neriya spoke in Arabic, trying to make his remarks more palatable. But it did not work. At a certain stage 'Arafat summoned Nabil Sha'th and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. Neriya continued to speak.

Once he started speaking about the borders 'Arafat became extremely tense. When Neriya said that the Jordan River is Israel's border; that the crossing points will remain under Israeli control because at this point there is no state, merely an interim arrangement, 'Arafat exploded like a volcano. He waved his finger at the two Israelis, stamped his feet on the floor, his body shook and his voice rose several octaves.

The Israelis were shocked, and although the Palestinians are used to this, everybody was appropriately impressed by the chairman's performance.

'Arafat's situation is undoubtedly not easy. If the key word for him is survival, the name of the game is money—but there is no money. Despite all the promises, 'Arafat has remained empty handed. Norway supplies him with uniforms, the United States is willing to help him in terms of what they term "nonlethal equipment" such as jeeps. Until now 'Arafat has been used to receiving funds from the Gulf states. Some shaykh would promise and then sign a check. Now the Europeans are driving him crazy with their demand for a properly functioning administration.

They pampered him, made promises, but now they left him with his tongue hanging out. They told him they will not give him enough funds for a budget, rather only for several projects. 'Arafat reminded them of their promise. The Europeans replied things are not that simple, they have to deal with their parliaments and finance committees.

The Europeans told Israel they had no idea how 'Arafat's system works. He is the only one to sign the checks; only he determines what will be done with the funds. The Europeans want reports, but 'Arafat is not used to submitting reports, certainly not in financial issues.

Within the PLO there are voices crying out for more democratization. 'Arafat had a conflict of authority with Abu-al-'Ala' over financial issues. With Abu-Mazin, who is responsible for relations with Israel, he had a conflict of authority over how to conduct the negotiations. Abu-Mazin demanded to receive real partnership. He told 'Arafat that the PLO has passed the revolutionary stage and that the new stage requires a different modus operandi.

The chairman suggested to renew the activity of the follow-up committee. Abu-Mazin rolled over with laughter, remarking that this committee is toothless, totally lacking in authority, and that he will not buy this proposal. Abu-Mazin pointed out that the PLO must work with various institutions in an organized manner. 'Arafat threatened to resign. Abu-Mazin told him: Go ahead, resign, I am not intimidated. Before he knew it he found himself removed from the center of action.

'Arafat is not accountable to anybody. If he needs somebody he brings him closer, if he is threatened by somebody, he removes him. Abu-Mazin has been removed, and Hani al-Hasan—who was himself removed from 'Arafat's vicinity in the past—has been returned from the cold and can now be seen in the chairman's company. The Palestinian leaders from the territories have been playing second violin for a long time and are far removed from centers of power.

Faysal al-Husayni is mainly invited to ceremonial occasions; Hanan 'Ashrawi was sent to deal with human rights. Only Ziyad Abu- Zayyad is playing a central role in the talks. These days 'Arafat is cultivating the Fatah Hawks, his real center of power in the territories, his fighters. When he comes here they will be in charge of that which is dearest to him—his life.

Minister Notes Flexibility by Other States Over Imports

TA2712203493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish has decided to be more flexible in permitting imports from states that are officially still included in the list of countries which ban or restrict imports from Israel. These countries were, in the past, part of the anti-Israel bloc in the United Nations, and either yielded to the Arab boycott or conducted a pro-Arab policy, and in recent years have shown signs of change. Our correspondent Arye Schorr notes that it has been decided to permit imports of raw material needed for the manufacture of goods for export or raw materials found exclusively in states which have discriminated against Israel in trade practices.

Ministry Reports Contacts With Saudi Firms

TA2712191293 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Initial feelers have been made between Saudi businessmen and Israeli firms. Senior Foreign Ministry sources told our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen that in recent weeks there have been clear signs that Saudi Arabia, which has had the most reservations about contacts with Israel, has begun to show cracks in its adherence to the Arab economic boycott. Saudi businessmen who formed the contacts with the Israeli firms did so with the approval of their government.

Turkmen Group Discusses Agricultural Projects

TA2712180793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Excerpt] The first official delegation from Turkmenistan has ended its visit to Israel. The delegation, which was headed by the deputy minister of agriculture, explored possibilities for joint agricultural projects. The visitors said that their mission had received the blessing of Turkmen ruler Niyazov, who had even placed several of his aides in the delegation, and who is very interested in promoting his country's ties with Israel. [passage omitted]

Belgian Defense Minister Arrives 27 Dec

TA2712202293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Belgian National Defense Minister Leo Delcroix arrived here tonight for a visit, during which he will discuss cooperation between the defense industries of the two countries. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the visitor arrived three hours late because his aircraft had a technical problem and was forced to make an emergency landing in Corsica.

U.S. Nonproliferation Initiative Viewed

TA2812095293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Dec 93 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] Israel is studying the U.S. President's nuclear nonproliferation initiative. Government elements are currently discussing the details of the initiative in preparation for the formulation of Israel's official position, which will then require the approval of Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister. The review is

taking into account political and technical considerations, such as the international policy on the prevention of nuclear proliferation, the U.S. position on Israel's nuclear capability, and the future of this issue in the era of peace arrangements.

Senior government elements said in the past that "Israel has no problem with any part of the initiative, and it can live with it," but divergent opinions have been voiced in internal debates, leading to sharp disagreements.

Various elements have voiced reservations about Israel's joining the Clinton initiative, asserting that Israel should not make commitments that will confine its future activities. [passage omitted]

Senior government elements said that the main problem facing Israel's nuclear policy is the renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), which Israel refused to sign. This treaty, which was first signed in 1968 and went into effect in 1970, acknowledges five nuclear states: the United States, Russia, Britain, France, and China. Many countries, as well as U.S. Administration figures, have urged Israel to sign the NPT. The belief in Israel, however, is that the United States will not exert pressure to secure Israel's signature to the treaty as long as the peace process continues and Israel is required to take territorial risks. According to this theory, Israel will be able to withstand pressure from the international community, but will find it difficult to stand up to direct U.S. pressure to join the NPT.

In 1969, the U.S. Administration endorsed the understanding achieved between President Richard Nixon and Prime Minister Golda Meir, and that understanding remains the foundation of Israel's nuclear policy.

Settlers Begin 'Shadow Settlements' Campaign

TA2412073393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Excerpts] This morning, Jewish settlers start a campaign to establish 130 shadow settlements next to existing communities in the territories. The exact sites will be chosen for the operation today and in two weeks the organizers plan to establish the shadow communities in a massive operation aimed at undermining the peace process. Back to reporter Mark Weiss:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] This morning, small groups of settlers are examining the sites chosen for the shadow settlements and laying the cornerstones. Next week, families of terrorist attack victims together with representatives of the settlements will name the new sites. The operation will move into high gear on 5 January, when the organizers plan to bring in thousands of supporters to establish the shadow settlements. [passage omitted]

All the shadow settlements will be set up on state land and each existing settlement will be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a new community nearby. The organizers have not announced what form the shadow settlements will take but most will have a token presence for only 48 hours. However, at certain sites attempts will be made to establish a more permanent presence. The council of Jewish communities in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza support the operation in principle but because of differences with the organizers over timing and tactics, decided not to coordinate the operation themselves. [end recording]

Settlers To Form Body To Pursue Fatah 'Murderers'

TA2712123893 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 27 Dec 93 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Excerpt] Settlers in the Qatif Bloc have decided to establish a body that will capture terrorist murderers who are members of the Fatah organization. This comes in the wake of the report, first released by ITIM, that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has called off its pursuit of Fatah murderers. One of the settlers told an ITIM correspondent that if the IDF cannot do its job, the settlers, whose friends have been murdered, cannot sit by without bringing the murderers to justice. [passage omitted]

Settlement Council Reports Population Changes

TA2712150993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Dec 93 p A3

[Report by Nadav Shragay; all figures as published]

[Text] According to statistics published yesterday by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza [CJS], the population of the settlements in the territories stands at 136,415. The council's report shows that the number of Jews in the territories has grown by about 10,000 since October 1992.

The data published yesterday was compiled from local councils' reports, which are based on the number of inhabitants paying municipal taxes. The figure is about 6,000 lower than the estimated 143,000 Jews reported by the CJS about a month ago.

[Key to abbreviations in table: RC—regional council; LC—local council]

Location	Population in Oct 92	Population on 15 Dec 93
RC Binyamin	16,004	20,430
RC Shomron	12,921	11,150
RC Har Hevron	3,046	2,900
RC Gush 'Etzyon	6,800	6,700
RC Hof 'Aza	4,905	5,900
RC Jordan Rift Valley	3,800	3,800
RC Megilot	700	900
Municipality of Ma'ale Adumim	16,757	19,870
Municipality of Ari'el	13,026	12,900
LC Elqana	3,331	3,400
LC Alfey Menashe	3,525	4,005
LC 'Imanu'el	4,803	4,700
LC Ma'ale Efrayim	1,819	2,100
LC Giv'at Ze'ev	7,100	7,200
LC Efrat	3,807	5,100
LC Bet Arye	1,757	1,950
LC Oranit	3,402	4,100
LC Qiryat Arba' plus Hebron local committee	7,107	5,900
LC Betar 'Ilit	3,524	5,540
LC Qarney Shomron	5,050	4,970
LC Qedumim was part of RC Shomron	2,900	
Total	125,135	136,415

The CJS data further indicates that the population of several localities has registered a drop for the first time since the CJS began compiling its reports from local and regional councils' input.

According to the data, the number of Jews in Qiryat Arba' has dropped by about 1,000; in Ari'el by about 100; in Har Hevron by about 100; in 'Imanu'el by about 100; and in the Regional Council of Shomron by about 1,700 persons. The CJS explains the drop in the Shomron Regional Council due to the transformation of Qedumim into an independent local council inhabited by some 2,900 persons. This figure was deducted from the total population of the Regional Council of Shomron.

With regard to other local councils with a population drop, the CJS said the population of some has indeed decreased, while the previous data on others had been inaccurate.

A population growth was registered in the following settlements over the past year: the Binyamin Local Council by 4,400; Ma'ale Adumim—2,000; Hof 'Aza—1,000; Efrat—1,300; Betar 'Ilit—2,000; and Alfey Menashe by 500.

In a statement published yesterday, the CJS said that "the Jewish inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza deserve profound respect for their tenacity during the six years of the intifadah, for standing up to the indignities inflicted on them by the Labor government, and for their moral fortitude which sustained their belief that despite the hardships, they can hold on to their land in a hope for a better future, as Jews have done throughout the history of Zionism."

Eight families, which had left their homes in central Israel, yesterday moved into permanent housing in the Samaria settlement of 'Ofarim. The settlement was inhabited by a few families which lived in mobile homes on a nearby hill until recently. Amana, the Gush Emunim settling movement, has built 83 housing units on the site, and over 50 percent of these have been sold.

The CJS announced yesterday that all the purchased apartments will be populated within two months. An additional 70 Construction and Housing Ministry apartments have been completed, but the ministry has not hooked them up to the power grid and refuses to sell them.

Al-Majali Interviewed on Syria, Projects, Agenda

NC2812074093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, in Amman, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program today—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Abu-al-Majd] Good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Majali] Greetings to you.

[Abu-al-Majd] We would like to know the most important topics discussed with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the nature of the message the minister delivered to King Husayn of Jordan yesterday.

[Al-Majali] Our relations with fraternal Syria are always firm. There is a framework for bilateral coordination on the government and leadership levels. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad sent al-Shar' to meet his majesty the king and the Jordanian Government to inform them of the developments in the peace process, especially after the visits of the U.S. secretary of state to Syria—two visits in a short period. We always consider this fundamental in Jordanian policy, as it is in Syrian policy, because we seek a comprehensive peace in our region.

[Abu-al-Majd] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will meet U.S. President Bill Clinton in January to discuss the peace process. Did you and the Syrian minister discuss a particular Jordanian viewpoint for President al-Asad to raise during his meeting with Clinton?

[Al-Majali] We always say that peace must be comprehensive and involve all the negotiating tracks. The Syrian-Israeli track has not moved for a long time and we always demand that the Syrian-Israeli negotiations move forward. We felt very optimistic when a summit meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton in Geneva in mid-January was decided upon. We are optimistic that the meeting will produce good results and lead to basic progress in peace efforts. The Syrian foreign minister stressed that the United States is very serious about supporting the peace process.

[Abu-al-Majd] What is new on the Jordanian-Israeli negotiating track? The foreign ministers of the cordon states will meet soon and there are reports that the negotiations will resume shortly, while the Palestinian-Israeli talks face obstacles. Reportedly, you agreed with the Israelis to launch economic projects in al-'Aqabah and Elat. What's new?

[Al-Majali] First, we have no [joint] economic projects in Elat, al-'Aqabah, or elsewhere. What happened was part of the ongoing discussion of items on the agenda. One point on the agenda is banks. We have been discussing this with Israel for over a year with a view to reopening Jordanian bank branches in the occupied territories. We have been discussing this since I was head of the Jordanian delegation to the negotiations. The Palestinian brothers knew about it. The negotiations have taken a long time and now they are in their final stages.

[Abu-al-Majd] Should we understand that the banks will open soon?

[Al-Majali] We hope they will open when the necessary procedures are completed. We hope this will happen soon and of course in coordination with the Palestinian brothers. [passage omitted]

King Receives Syria's al-Shar', Message

JN2712165693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] At the Royal Hashemite Court today, His Majesty King Husayn received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who communicated to him a verbal message from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad. His majesty and al-Shar' exchanged views on regional and world developments and the Middle East peace process. They underlined the need for further coordination and a united stand to promote Arab rights and a comprehensive, just, and durable peace in the region. They also discussed bilateral ties to advance common and Arab interests.

Along with Crown Prince Hasan, the session was attended by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali; Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd bin-Shakir; his majesty's political adviser Marwan al-Qasim; and Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs. Mr. Ahmad al-Dabbas, the Syrian charges d'affaires in Amman also attended the meeting.

The Syrian foreign minister also called on the prime minister at the Prime Ministry building to discuss ties and the Middle East peace process. The minister of state for foreign affairs and the Syrian charges d'affaires attended the meeting.

Al-Shar' held separate talks with Sat'an al-Hasan at the Foreign Ministry in the context of ongoing coordination and consultation between the two brotherly countries and their leaders. They reviewed the latest developments in the peace process and discussed ways to close Arab ranks and coordinate Arab moves. They also talked about bilateral ties and raised the possibility of an early convening of the joint Jordanian-Syrian committee to further the distinguished ties between the two countries in all spheres.

King Receives Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister

JN2712180293 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] His majesty the king has received visiting Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister Brigadier Mujahid Abu-Shawarib. At the meeting, which was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Yemeni envoy

conveyed to his majesty a message from the Yemeni leadership on bilateral relations and the political situation in Yemen.

The Yemeni deputy prime minister voiced the Yemeni leadership's appreciation of his majesty's role to end differences in Yemen. His majesty expressed his satisfaction with efforts aimed at ending the crisis and his keenness to continue helping the Yemeni leadership overcome that crisis.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, and senior officials.

Abu-Shawarib on Yemeni Reconciliation

JN2712192193 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Interview with Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister Mujahid Abu-Shawarib by political correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab in Amman on 27 December—recorded]

[Abu-Shawarib] I filled his majesty the king in on the situation. He promised to exert further efforts toward the containment of the Yemeni crisis. I also brought a message from the brother president and his deputy and the Yemeni leadership inviting his majesty to visit Sanaa at his convenience.

[Dhiyab] How far along are the efforts to contain Yemen's political crisis?

[Abu-Shawarib] The parties in the coalition—the Yemeni Socialist Party, the General People's Congress, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping—have agreed to sort out their differences through dialogue and ruled out other options. The dialogue committee represents the partners in the ruling coalition and opposition parties outside office, plus a good number of public figures. It has made quite a bit of progress. I do not wish to elaborate further before we see concrete results.

[Dhiyab] Are the president and his deputy likely to meet anytime soon?

[Abu-Shawarib] God willing, they will, and the meeting will be a culmination of his majesty's efforts.

'No Objections' to Iraqi Airways Flights to Amman

JN2812082193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Dec 93 p 3

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Amman—Iraq on Monday [27 December] assured Jordan that the reopening of the port of Umm Qasr in the Gulf would not affect the flow of Iraq-bound cargo through al-'Aqabah, Jordanian officials and Iraqi sources said.

They said the assurance was given by Iraqi Transport Ministry Under-Secretary Khalid al-Samarra'i during a meeting with Transport Minister Adib Halasah.

"Mr. al-Samarra'i told the Jordanian officials that the reopening of Umm Qasr would not have any impact on the flow of Iraq-bound goods coming through al-'Aqabah," said an Iraqi source, whose account was confirmed by Jordanian officials.

"It is a political decision to continue to use al-'Aqabah for the bulk of Iraqi imports," added the source.

The Iraqi official also noted that although Umm Qasr was reopened early last month after the port and access waterways were cleaned of war debris, only two vessels had called at the port since then and this rate of port calls was expected to continue for "some time."

The reopening of the Gulf port has raised serious concerns among the Jordanian port and transport sector, which fears that it would further lower the already depressed Iraqi imports through al-'Aqabah.

The flow of Iraqi-bound goods through al-'Aqabah has steadily declined since mid-1992 as the international enforcers of the sanctions tightened their inspection procedures of ships passing through the Red Sea towards al-'Aqabah. [passage omitted]

Mr. al-Samarra'i, who was on his way to Cairo to attend an Arab League transport ministers council meeting, also discussed his country's request of the U.N. sanctions committee for permission to operate a daily flight between Amman and Baghdad, they said.

Transport Ministry officials said Jordan had no objections to Iraqi Airways operating the flight, but noted that it was up to the U.N. to extend the necessary exemption from the international sanctions imposed on Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Russian Military Delegation Departs 26 Dec

JN2612190393 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Valentin Korablenikov, first deputy commander of the Russian Army Main Directorate for Combat Training [name and title as heard], and his delegation left Amman this afternoon at the end of a visit to the kingdom that lasted for several days.

During the visit, he met with a number of ranking officials and called on a number of military positions and visited civic and archaeological sites in Jordan. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Leader on Prisoners, Internal Issues

NC2812152093 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 17 Dec 93 p 3

[Text] In an interview with al-Fajr Television Network that will be broadcast Sunday [19 December], Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah has reiterated Hizballah's refusal to meet any official committee of the U.S. Administration or Congress because the U.S. Administration is ignoring the fate of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese detainees, prisoners, and hostages in Israeli prisons. They only talk about the fate of some Israeli soldiers who were taken prisoner in Lebanese territory. This administration is not qualified to play a humanitarian role, Sayyid Nasrallah added.

His eminence, however, voiced the party's readiness to discuss the fate of the Zionist soldiers and Lahdist agents held by the party with international and humanitarian organizations and with friendly parties that support our people's right to resistance in return for the release of all the detainees held in the Zionist occupation prisons.

Asked about the U.S. plan, which aims to exclude Resolution 425 from the settlement process, Sayyid Nasrallah said: At the least, the Lebanese Government must withdraw completely from the negotiations because the United States and Israel are seeking to deprive the Lebanese authority of this resolution. The U.S. plan should serve as a warning to the Lebanese authorities and to all the people of the region. He said: We urge the political authority in Lebanon and the Lebanese people, as well as all forces, to realize that the only force that could be relied on in the liberation process is the force of resistance. He said that resistance will continue as long as occupation continues.

In response to a question about the internal situation and the current crises, Sayyid Nasrallah said: The government is hatching plots against Lebanon and its people, as well as against Lebanon's alliance with Syria. Had our people and masses not been patient in the wake of the 13 September massacre and had it not been for the caution exercised vis-a-vis the role played by certain government figures, Lebanon would have collapsed. There are people working to render Lebanon an easy prey for the Americans and Israelis.

Sayyid Nasrallah called for the creation of a broad opposition front based on clear-cut objectives to safeguard and salvage Lebanon. He said: This government has made enough mistakes, which has enabled the opposition to increase every day.

Israeli Planes Raid Hizballah Training Base in South

TA2812143593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Report by military correspondent Netan'el Smerik—live]

[Text] A few minutes ago, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announced that Israeli Air Force jet fighters raided a Hizballah target in the Jabal Safi area at noon today. The pilots reported accurate hits on the target. All our planes returned safely to their bases in Israel. We would like to point out that the target in question was a training base used by Hizballah to launch terrorist attacks.

Three Reportedly Killed in Israeli Air Raids

NC2812092693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Israeli warplanes resumed their raids against al-Surayri hill at 0915 today after carrying out two raids against the same area at 0610 and firing several air-to-surface missiles.

According to preliminary reports, three people were killed during these raids.

The Norwegian contingent of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon has been placed on maximum alert since yesterday evening following the killing of one Norwegian UN soldier and the wounding of another by Israeli fire.

Israeli warplanes are still flying extensively over areas in the south and western al-Biqa'.

IDF Soldier Injured by Mine in South

TA2812093193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was moderately wounded in south Lebanon last night. The soldier stepped on a mine when an IDF unit was on patrol in the western sector of the security zone. He was wounded in the leg and taken to Rambam Hospital in Haifa in moderate condition.

Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that several mortar shells were fired at an IDF post in the eastern sector of the security zone last night. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. IDF units in the region returned the fire.

Judge Orders Reopening of Television Station

NC2312192993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] Beirut Chief Penal Judge Antoine Abu-Nadir today issued a decision allowing the Independent Cable News, ICN, to reopen and exercise its activity within the boundaries of the law and public freedoms. Its supervisors, the judge said, must be careful to avoid interference with any other television station.

Al-Shar' 'Satisfied' With Amman Talks

JN2712182693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1740 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Damascus, 27 Dec (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening at the end of short visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan during which he delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal.

He was seen off at Amman Airport by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, the Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, and a number of ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian charge d'affaires in Amman, and the embassy staff.

Before leaving the Amman airport, al-Shar' told reporters that he conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to King Husayn and discussed all aspects of the peace process and the next steps toward a just and comprehensive solution in the region on the basis of UN resolutions. He said: I am satisfied with the results of this meeting, and I am going to convey what I heard from his majesty the king to President al-Asad.

Answering a question on the impact of implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the Syrian track, the foreign minister said: In our view, this does not influence the Syrian track or the other tracks. We in Syria have repeatedly made it clear that we are for a just and comprehensive solution in accordance with the UN resolutions and the Madrid formula. The next steps will help us all in bringing the peace process back onto the right course. Coordination among the Arab parties, especially the parties that have not yet reached agreement on substantial issues, is necessary, and I think that coordination with our brothers in Jordan will continue. There is also good and constant coordination with the brothers in Lebanon, and steps will take place during the next month that will lead—if things go as they should—to the convening of a new round of peace negotiations in Washington.

When asked if there is Syrian-Palestinian coordination, the foreign minister said: There is no Syrian-Palestinian coordination; that is, it was terminated by the PLO leadership when the secret Oslo talks were made public. It is only natural for us to be concerned about inter-Arab coordination, and with a joint Arab stand, particularly as we are a concerned Arab party. For this reason we held several meetings of the foreign ministers of the Arab sides concerned with the peace process. We are concerned with coordination. It is regrettable, however, that one Arab side has abandoned inter-Arab coordination and acted in contravention of the joint Arab stand.

The foreign minister added: We hope that this will be compensated for by coordination among the other Arab sides in the next phase; namely, the Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian sides.

When asked about the expected results of the Geneva summit due to be held between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton, the foreign minister said it is hard to predict the outcome of the Geneva summit. However, he added, we hope that the results of this summit will be positive and also that they will help advance the peace process to help achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 concerning Lebanon and the Madrid conference formula, as well.

When the send-off ceremonies were concluded, Talal Sat'an al- Hasan, the Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, made a statement, noting that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's visit to Jordan is important. He added that this visit is part of the ongoing and continuing consultations between His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Hasan went on to say that the talks between His Majesty King Husayn and Mr. al-Shar' were held in a cordial and fraternal atmosphere. During these talks, he noted, his majesty the king and the Syrian foreign minister reviewed the entire peace process, the means of promoting and enhancing Jordanian-Syrian ties in all areas and spheres, as well as holding a meeting of the Higher Joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee to promote these ties.

Omani Petroleum Minister Pays Visit

Comments on Oil Prices

JN2712173593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari, Omani petroleum and minerals minister, arrived in Damascus this evening on a short visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at the Damascus International Airport by Dr. Nadir Nabulsi, oil and mineral resources minister, and the Omani ambassador in Damascus.

In a statement to the correspondent of the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, al-Shanfari hailed their historic, fraternal, and sincere bilateral relations. He said: We all know that oil prices have dropped, the barrel price reaching $10 or $11, and I, along with all experts, am pessimistic about the drop in oil prices.

At the end of his statement, al-Shanfari expressed the hope that the oil-producing countries will coordinate and cooperate to stop the drop in oil prices.

Joint Statement Issued

JN2712190393 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Damascus, 27 Dec (SANA)—Official talks began today at the Oil Ministry between the Syrian and Omani oil ministers.

The Syrian side was led by Dr. Nadir Nabulsi, minister of oil and mineral resources, and the Omani side was led by

Sa'id al-Shanfari, Omani minister of petroleum and minerals. The meeting was attended by the Omani ambassador in Damascus and his accompanying delegation.

Discussions dealt with the situation in the Arab and international oil markets in terms of consumption and production, the balance between supply and demand, and the impact of this on prices.

The two sides issued the following joint statement:

Out of awareness of the importance of coordination between the oil producing countries, whether within or outside OPEC; based on the joint interest of these countries; in light of the resolutions adopted by the Gulf Cooperation Council in its recent meeting in Riyadh, which assigned the Sultanate of Oman with conducting coordination and consultation with the non-OPEC oil producers in order to stabilize world oil market and stop the current deterioration of oil prices; and on the basis of their mutual interests, the Syrian Arab Republic supports all efforts of the Sultanate of Oman to establish a suitable price for oil, the main source of energy, in a manner that realizes the interest of the producing and consuming countries alike.

Armenian Parliamentary Team Meets al-Shar'

JN2312154993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] At the People's Assembly building this afternoon, a round of talks was held between Assembly Speaker Mr. 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah and an Armenian parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Babken Ararktsyan. Also present were [National Assembly Foreign Relations Chairman] Mr. Shakir Is'ayyid and Assembly members Tawfiq Darwish and Gregor Ablakesyan, as well as the Armenian charge d'affaires in Damascus. The talks centered on parliamentary cooperation with a view to developing mutual friendly ties. The sides stressed the need to develop traditional ties of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Armenia, and expressed a desire to strengthen cooperation in the political, commercial, economic, scientific, technical, and cultural areas.

It was agreed that parliamentary groups will be set up in the People's Assembly and the Armenian Supreme Soviet to arrange bilateral contacts. Periodic consultations will also be held between the parliamentary groups about regional and international questions of shared interest. The sides will establish cooperation and exchanges between standing parliamentary committees.

A cooperation agreement was signed beween the People's Assembly and the Armenian Supreme Soviet. 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah signed for Syria and Babkin Ararktsyan for Armenia. Qaddurah emphasized that the agreement will help boost two-way cooperation and friendship.

The Armenian parliamentary team earlier in the day called on Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'ayyid; Dr. Ghassan Raslan, chief of Eastern Europe Directorate; and David Ohansyan, Armenian charge d'affaires in Damascus. They discussed Central Asia and Nagorno-Karabakh developments, with al-Shar' pointing out the need for the Karabakh issue to be resolved peacefully to the satisfaction of the interests of the parties to the dispute and to promote regional stability. They also talked about the Middle East peace process and friendly ties between Syria and Armenia.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Militia Reportedly Fires Missiles Into Kabul

LD2712153793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Today, Golboddin Hekmatyar's militia fired four missiles at residential areas in wards two and 10, which wounded five of our compatriots.

A responsible source at the Kabul garrison general command told a military correspondent of BIA [Bakhtar Information Agency] that the missiles were fired from the south and, in addition to wounding a number of people, also caused material damage. Those injured were taken to the hospital and are under treatment.

According to another report, Hekmatyar's militia fired missiles at the frontline posts to the south. Kabul garrison spokesman said that Golboddin's militia fired missiles and mortars at the positions of the Islamic army. The units of the Islamic army did not reply in kind. They remained patient.

Cease-Fire Monitoring Groups Leave for Districts

LD2712171693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Two delegations left to monitor the cease-fire in Tagab and Sarobi Districts this afternoon.

The prime minister's press department reported that Deputy Minister of Justice Esteemed Abdorrahim Mowlawi and Deputy Minister of Communications Esteemed Eng. Mohammad Amin Monsef went to Sarobi District. Esteemed Sayed Hosayn Anwari, minister of labor and social affairs, and [name indistinct], acting minister of foodstuffs and light industries went to Tagab District. hl

Dispute Over Sher-Khan Bandar Resolved by Agreement

LD2512195493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Dec 93

[Text] According to a Defense Ministry spokesman, the Sher-Khan Bandar problem has been resolved through an understanding (?reached in Kondoz) between the two sides. According to the understanding, a local force associated with the National Islamic Movement will take control of the area. The force is formed of the residents of Emam Saheb [District in Kondoz] which will be armed only with light weapons. The administrative staff of Sher-Khan Bandar has been selected from among the mojahedin of Kondoz Province, and the income from ports will also belong to Kondoz Province. The source added: It is planned for Qala-e Zal and Aqtapa districts to be run and led by forces of both sides (?jointly).

Foreign Minister Meets U.S., Russian Ambassadors

LD2412190493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] The Afghan minister of foreign affairs recently met with the U.S. and Russian Federation ambassadors on separate occasions. Esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala, who was a member of the high ranking delegation that visited Tajikistan, met at the request of the ambassadors and held talks with them on Tajik issues, the return of refugees, and the maintenance of security along the Afghan-Tajik border. The minister of foreign affairs told a Bakhtar Agency reporter: The view of boths sides are very close on all negotiable issues.

President Rabbani Addresses Tajikistani Scholars

LD2612200393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Dec 93

[Speech given by President Borhanoddin Rabbani to a meeting of Tajikistani scholars at Dushanbe University on 25 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, [previous words spoken in Arabic]. Very dear brothers, dear scholars, teachers, and the people of cultural fields of the fraternal country of Tajikistan, sisters and brothers, assalam aliakom! First, I cordially thank dear brother Imomali Rakhmanov whose invitation gives me and my companions such an opportunity that our hearts' eyes are brightened by seeing you dear people. [indistinct passage omitted] I cordially thank the teachers and the leadership of this university for awarding me an honorary doctorate degree. Surely the deep links between these two nations are not a new phenomenon. [passage omitted]

Your fraternal nation of Afghanistan gave 1.5 million martyrs during their recent struggle for independence. But freedom is very dear. Freedom requires homelessness, deprivation, martyrdom, pain, and struggle. But it is worthy to pass through this fire to gain freedom. After gaining it, nations will be ready for sacrifice to protect freedom.

Iqbal [Indian poet] says: God awards mastery to a nation that writes its fate with its own hands; He has nothing to do with a nation whose farmer works for others. [passage omitted on further elaboration] We should endure pain and problems in the epoch of independence with patience and calm. Although the Afghan and Tajik nations face problems in their epoch of independence, those problems are passing ones. We have in our possession great underground resources. [Words indistinct] once we pass the transitional period, we can transform our countries, Afghanistan and Tajikistan, to very great countries both in material and morale terms. [Words indistinct] we definitely pass through those problems. Now my wish is for all of us to hold each other's hands, to set aside differences. We must keep unity to revive our

lofty Islamic culture, to return to our great humane civilization, to build our free and dignified society, and forget conflicts. Our country Afghanistan, you know about it, was invaded by the Red occupiers—as the teachers said [as heard]. Those who were linked to the foreigners made life for the freedom-loving children of Afghanistan difficult, and we and a number of our friends were obliged to leave our homes. Away from our country we launched the struggle against the occupying forces. Eventually the aggressive and occupying force suffered betrayal and defeat.

Like our country, the fraternal country of Tajikistan has resisted against invading forces in their great struggles. In the course of history our nation has had bloody campaigns. For the first time we entered a fight with England, with Great Britain, in whose empire the sun never set. In 1919 the Afghan nation, armed with the strength of faith, was able to defeat the English for the first time with bare hands. With the defeat of Britain in Afghanistan the empire of Great Britain fell, and eventually the English returned to their island.

We also witnessed that the Soviet Union, that wanted to use Afghanistan as a springboard for other countries, [word indistinct] and eliminate our people was defeated, and once again with the great uprising of our Muslim nation in Afghanistan, which was armed with the strength of faith and their great culture—today the Soviet Union and the occupying forces do not exist. The nation became free. We see that today, our two fraternal nations, Afghan and Tajik nations, are free. Under the orders of the lofty teachings of Islam, after the establishment of the Islamic state, we declared a general amnesty for those who fought against us for years. Henceforth the prisons doors have completely closed. We no longer have any prisoners. [break in reception]

We announced a general amnesty for those who cooperated and worked with the former Soviet Union, and we said that we would not put them on trial because they fought against us, and that they should come to work together for the reconstruction of our country and hold each other's hands, because Marxist thoughts no longer exist in our country any more. Many might have been surprised—even some of our youths, some of our Mojahedin commanders sometimes put pressure on us, that those people who killed their brothers yesterday, and yet they began to work in our Army. We always advised the youths to leave the past to the past. We have not come to seek revenge. We should bring a message of friendship, love, and fraternity. The past belonged to the previous regime. But they are our Afghans and we are brothers to one another.

We believe that in Tajikistan, security and fraternity will be ensured under the leadership of Imomali Rakhmanov and other Tajik leaders and with help of you dear scholars, and that no opposition will fight. They, holding each other's hands, will embark on the construction of their country.

Dear brothers, surely there are problems in this sensitive and transitional juncture of our history, but we are sure that the Tajik nation, scholars, and politicians have the ability to make Tajikistan an important and valuable country in the region. We are completely ready for any possible cooperation and assistance between the two fraternal and neighborly nations. A number of our Tajik brothers stay with us for the moment as our guests. We told our brothers we should start working to ensure security in fraternity. Fighting does resolve any problems. War is to be fought against a foreign and occupying force. One should not fight against one's nation. One should not overthrow one's country. Nations will resolve their problems together with the political leadership. I am very pleased that brother Imomali Rakhmanov [words indistinct] with his visit to Kabul, opened a new chapter in the fraternity of the two nations. As the brothers said, and I approve of their remarks—the foreigners erected an iron wall between us and now fortunately, those iron walls have collapsed. Even at that time, our relations penetrated the iron walls and our hearts were linked. But now that, with the grace of God, the situation that separated our nations from one another—the Soviet Union—the time when they wanted to dominate nations—does not exist anymore.

Today, with the grace of God, they are living in freedom and we all live as free nations. (?Some believe) that today's Russian Federation is the inheritor of the ex-Soviet Union. However, I, during a visit that I paid prior to the collapse of the regime linked to the ex-Soviet Union to Moscow, [words indistinct] organ of the ex-Soviet Union that had not yet collapsed, asked me: Will you have political and diplomatic relations with us after gaining independence? I told them: Yes, why not. After you have announced through your parliament, that the Russian Parliament condemns the attack of the Red Army against Afghanistan. After that, when you have condemned the bloodthirsty regime of Brezhnev, and those who took over from him, we could open political and diplomatic relations with the Russian nation, even with the officers that fought against us in the trenches. We are not enemies of the Russians. The Russians did not fight against us, it was the bloodthirsty Communist regime which was led by Brezhnev. We fought against that. They attacked us.

Today Mr. Yeltsin wants to work within an atmosphere of democracy, and we are ready to have good relations with you. Even Rutskoy, prior to the recent changes, said the land of Afghanistan is very beautiful. We told them that you saw the land of Afghanistan from the air. [Sentence indistinct]. He also said that he remembered. I told him, however—I gave him a translation of the holy Koran and told him: This is the book of Muslims, do you understand it? He [Rutskoy] said that I feel repentant. I told him when you repent truly, then I accept what you say. Of course this conversation between us took place in the Kremlin.

After the establishment of the Islamic state in Afghanistan, we now want to have political and diplomatic

relations with the Russian Federation. We intend to revive commissions between the two countries. We even released some Russian prisoners of war in order to lend support to Yeltsin because he was for democracy in Russia and against Communist oppression, and we said that the remaining war prisoners also—if any—would be released. Today's Afghanistan, inside and outside the country, intends to dispatch the message of Islam, of Islamic unity and fraternity, and of friendship with nations to all places. We desire security in our country, in the beloved and beautiful land of Tajikistan, and among the nations of the region. We hold out our hands to each other and will work for peace in the region and in the world. This is the message of the Islamic state. Our message to the fraternal nation—the Tajik nation with whom we have very deep historical, cultural, and religious relations—our message to them—is a message of brotherhood, of cooperation, and of consolidation of historical relations. We hope these relations will be strengthened with the passing of every day.

You dear lecturers, youths, and children of learning and the beloved Tajik nation could take great steps toward the consolidation of this...[8 second break in transmission] Deep cultural and thoughtful relations exist [between the two nations], and we intend build new bridges over the Amu Darya [Oxus River] so as to show that our relations are so strong that no one and no hand could separate these two fraternal nations and neighboring countries.

Once again, I express thanks to your university that has trained our Afghan youths, too. Our relations with you, henceforth, will expand and strengthen further. We, God willing, will invite dear lecturers of the universities of Tajikistan and Tajik youths to visit their second home, Afghanistan—just as we are not here as guests but in our second homeland—and to study it close-at-hand. [passage omitted]

India

Rao Comments on Chemical Weapons Convention

BK2412125493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] The prime minister has said that the chemical weapons convention is a great step in the direction of disarmament and the most important pillar of any disarmament process is verification. Chairing the Consultative Committee meeting of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in New Delhi, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao said the Chemical Weapons Convention is nondiscriminatory in its approach. This is the reason for which the verification methods adopted in the convention are compared favorably with similar efforts in the direction of disarmament. Mr. Narasima Rao emphasized that India is not making any chemical weapons and it has nothing to hide. He said India plans to train its chemical industry in a such a way that they are able to protect their commercial secrets while undergoing the inspection process.

President Hosts Guyanese Counterpart at Banquet

BK2812041093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] India has called on developing countries to promote a spirit of cooperation and work for peace and prosperity. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Guyanese president, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, in New Delhi last night, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma made a strong plea for solidarity among the developing countries for a just and equitable world order. He said, despite the end of the Cold War era, the world is still facing serious problems which obstruct peace and development. The president said the Third World unity and collective self-help is indispensable in today's world. Dr. Sharma offered to assist Guyana in its developmental efforts and enlarge bilateral cooperation under the Indian technical and economic cooperation program.

Dr. Cheddi Jagan in his reply appreciated India's international role for the cause of the Third World development. He thanked India for its contribution in his country's developmental program and called for efforts to further strengthen the cooperation between the two countries.

Inaugurating the second global convention of people of Indian origin in New Delhi, the visiting Guyanese president called on world nations to cut their defense expenditure and utilize the saved amount for the welfare of the poor. In his keynote address, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee urged nonresident Indians to play a greater role in the development process in the country. The deputy chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Najma Heptulla, and the chief minister of Delhi, Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, also addressed the convention.

Agriculture Cooperation Agreement Signed With Israel

BK2412075493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] India and Israel have signed an agreement for cooperation in the field of agriculture. It was signed by the agriculture minister, Dr. Balram Jakhar, and the Israeli minister for agriculture, Mr. Ya'aqov Tzur, in New Delhi this morning.

Later, addressing a joint press conference, they said that a program of action in specific areas of cooperation will be worked out in due course of time. A major area of cooperation will be in water and soil management. Cooperation is also envisaged for arid and semi-arid production, increasing of biomass availability, hybrid seeds, energy saving technology with special emphasis on commercial species. Development of marketing infrastructure for fruits and vegetables and post-harvest processing technologies are also among several other areas of collaborative activity.

Israeli Minister Holds Talks

BK2512042593 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Excerpts] India and Israel have signed their first-ever agreement for cooperation in the field of agriculture. It was signed by the agriculture minister, Dr. Balram Jakhar, and his Israeli counterpart Mr. Ya'aqov Tzur in New Delhi today. [passage omitted]

The Israeli minister later had a meeting with the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji. Possibilities of cooperation in export of agricutural products to third countries were discussed at the meeting. The Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations also figured during the discussions. Indian exports to Israel went up from about 158 crore rupees in 1991-92 to over 244 crore rupees during the last financial year.

Mr. Ya'qov Tzur also called on the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh. Mr. Dinesh Singh told the visiting minister that India fully supports the peace process in West Asia and hopes that on-going dialogue in this connection will conclude successfully. The Israli agriculture minister told Mr. Singh that his country fully supports India's stand on the Kashmir issue.

Parliamentary Body Notes U.S. 'Pressure'

BK2612094193 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 18 Dec 93 p 12

[By Our Diplomatic Editor]

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 17: The Government was today asked to take serious notice of certain recent moves that impinged on Indo-U.S. relations and urged not to make any compromises on the basic fundamental principles of the country's foreign policy.

Members of the External Affairs Ministry's Parliamentary Consultative Committee perceived a shift in the U.S. policy towards India in general and on the issue of Kashmir in particular. They noted that India had made sincere efforts in the last few years to open up new cooperative relationship with the U.S. with new orientation. But, while as a sister democracy one could expect the U.S. to be broadly supportive of India's legitimate aspirations, the reality was that this country was under pressure on a variety of areas, such as, Kashmir, human rights and nuclear non-proliferation.

Many members, however, noted the positive aspects of Indo-U.S. relations, especially the fact that the U.S. was India's number one trading partner as also foreign investor. Even in this area, there had been problems with the United States under the Special 301 Regime and other pressures.

They also referred to the move by the Clinton Administration to amend the Foreign Assistance Act and through it to water down the Pressler Amendment. The net result of this would be not only to include India in the ambit of the new legislation, but also to allow the U.S. Administration to utilise the waiver clause to resume military aid to Pakistan.

Keeping in mind the importance of Indo-U.S. relations, most members were of the view that on human rights, non-proliferation and trade issues India should project its point of view frankly without being in the least defensive. India should also make it clear that the legal situation was that the dispute on Kashmir related to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, which was Indian territory illegally occupied by Pakistan.

Members expressed surprise and concern at the views expressed by a U.S. State Department official that the Simla Agreement was non-functional. They were exercised that it was Pakistan that was aiding and abetting terrorism, and had admitted that it had a nuclear weapons programme. But, strangely, the pressure on human rights and the pressure on non-proliferation was sought to be put on India.

Some members also asked the Chairman to elaborate on the question of hiring of lobbyists in the U.S..

On the G-15 Summit some members inquired as to what was behind the lack of quorum which led to postponement of the Summit. They wondered at the level of commitment to the G-15 of those countries who had not attended at the Head of State and Government level. Some others, in this context, inquired as to the relevance of the G-15 at a time when countries were looking more towards becoming members of trading blocs, such as NAFTA, APEC etc.

Minister of State for External Affairs R.L. Bhatia said on the hiring of lobbyists, virtually all countries in the U.S. utilised the services of lobbyists and that India was at the moment considering this also, but a final decision had not been taken.

With regard to non-proliferation, he mentioned that India's position which was based on sound and fundamental principles, was very clear and it would continue to maintain this stand.

As far as the declaration of Pakistan as a terrorist State was concerned, all requisite evidence that India possessed had been passed on to the United States. The U.S. had not taken the final step for its own reasons.

On the question of the Simla Agreement, he mentioned that it was quite untrue to say that this had not been functional. This Agreement had held the peace in the subcontinent for more than 20 years, and India continued to stand by it. It was his hope that the Foreign Secretary-level talks, soon to commence, would be successful in initiating a forward movement.

On Indo-U.S. relations, Mr. Bhatia noted the Members' apprehension of U.S. pressures in different areas, but he said that India had explained its point of view frequently

and in detail and would continue to do so. But there would be no compromise on our sovereignty and our independent position.

With regard to the G-15, Minister of State for External Affairs Salman Khurshid mentioned that at the meetings of the Personal Representatives and the Foreign Ministers, it was made abundantly clear that there was no reduction or dilution of commitment to the G-15 objectives and in fact, they had all unanimously stated that it should be held soon, and in Delhi. Until Dec. 4, as many as 11 countries had, in fact, confirmed participation. It was an unfortunate set of coincidences relating to domestic compulsions of different kinds, which led to the heads of State and Government of a number of countries withdrawing virtually on the last day.

Iran

Interior Minister Views Ban on March to U.S. Embassy

LD2812120293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] During today's open session of the Islamic Majles, Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati answered a question raised by Elyas Hazrati, the deputy from Rasht, as to why the Interior Ministry prevented a group of Muslim students from Tehran universities from staging a rally on 2 November [eve of U.S. Embassy occupation anniversary]. A march was to start from Tehran University on that day toward the den of espionage. In reply the interior minister said: Our grounds for not granting permission to stage a march on that day was a legal circular, on the basis of which we are allowed to grant marching permission to one organ of the Islamic Publicity Coordination Council only.

The matter was then referred to the relevant commission for investigation.

According to a report by our correspondent, at the beginning of today's open session, Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri made a speech in which he announced Majles support for a day of solidarity with the oppressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He strongly criticized the silence and indifference of the United Nations and the pseudo-supporters of human rights in the face of the crimes committed by the Serbs and Croats against the Bosnia-Herzegovina Muslims. He also reiterated the Islamic Republic of Iran's continuing support for the suffering people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and praised the philanthropic decision of the esteemed leader [Khamene'i] as another instruction to our people to participate actively in assisting the innocent people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He further announced that the Majles deputies, as part of their contribution in this humanitarian matter, will allocate at least one day's salary to help the Bosnia-Herzegovina Muslims.

Foreign Ministry Announces Support for Afghan Cease-Fire

LD2812114093 Tehran IRNA in English 1014 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry here Tuesday announced Iran's supports for the cease-fire agreement reached between Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] and Jami'at Eslami [Islamic Society] in Afghanistan for putting an end to their hostilities.

After nearly two months of fighting, rival Afghan groups finally agreed to observe a cease-fire on Sunday.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mehdi Mohammadi, added that the Islamic Republic of Iran had constantly been against all forms of conflicts among Afghan jihad groups and favored their unity and solidarity within the framework of the Islamic Government in Afghanistan.

He referred to the recent talks here between Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Iranian officials on situation in Afghanistan and said Iran is ready to cooperate for the achievement of a new round of understanding in Afghanistan.

Such an understanding in Afghanistan, he added, would help materialization of the reconstruction effort in the war-torn country in the light of security there.

Bosnian President Thanks Government for Support

NC2812075793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] The president of Bosnia-Herzegovina has said that the the support by the Iranian Government and nation is among the extremely important factors that has helped the Bosnian Muslims confront the continuous aggressive action by the Serbs. Speaking in an exclusive interview with our correspondent in Bonn last night, Alija Izetbegovic expressed the Bosnian Muslims' gratitude to our people.

In this telephone conversation, which took place last night, the president of Bosnia-Herzegovina said:

[Begin recording of Izetbegovic in Serbo-Croation with superimposed translation into Persian] Since the outset of the Serbs' aggressive war against the Muslims, the leader of the Islamic revolution and the Iranian Government and nation have always extended all-embracing support for the rights, aspirations, and struggles of the Bosnian Muslims. The nation and government of Bosnia-Herzegovina are well aware of all the efforts by the Iranian leader, government, and nation to mitigate the pain and grief of the Bosnian Muslims and to support their righteous resistance against the aggressors.

The feeling that we are not alone in the world and that we have brothers and friends who are standing next to us and are sympathizing with us has always healed the pain and

grief of our nation. The Bosnian Muslims have resisted the heaviest and most severe blows by the enemy and they are defending their just rights and their territory more steadfastly each day.

The support by our friends in the world led by the Iranian Government and nation will, God willing, be a determining factor in saving the lives, culture, and the exalted faith of the Bosnia? Muslims in this part of the world. It is with this heartfelt wish that I once again send fraternal greetings to the Iranian nation on behalf of the Bosnian nation. [end recording]

President Urges City To Cooperate With Turkmenistan

LD2412155093 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Gonbad (Mazendaran), Dec. 24, IRNA—President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani who was warmly greeted by the people here, said in his speech to a large gathering that the unity between Shiite and Sunni muslims in this northern city was a perfect example of unity in the Muslim world.

He called on the Friday prayers leaders here to safeguard the unity.

He said the people of the region would do well to cooperate with the Republic of Turkmenistan, and added that it would be to the benefit of the people of both countries if they cooperated in the laying of oil and gas trunklines between Iran and Turkmenistan, and for building transit roads.

President Rafsanjani said that part of Mazendaran Province has rich resources of untapped water and that it would be highly beneficial to farming in the province if the water resources were harnessed for agriculture purposes.

He also visited the city of Aliabad Katoul, where he told cheering crowds that the people's devotion to Islam and the Islamic government creates added responsibility for the state administrators.

Later today the president continuing his tour of this Caspian province visited kolaleh and in nearby Galikash he inaugurated a 50,000-ton silo built by the Construction Jihad Ministry.

President Rafsanjani said as development projects go ahead the Islamic Republic will be less and less dependent on foreign suppliers and foreign expertise. He said in the near future the country would be fully self-sufficient.

The silo is to be improved later on for storing as much as 100,000 tons of grain. The silos already built in various parts of Iran by the Construction Jihad have a combined capacity of upwards of 700,000 tons including the one that was inaugurated by President Rafsanjani in Galikash Friday.

All silos by the Construction Jihad of Iran were designed and built solely by domestic experts.

Early in the day, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani was in Babol where he inaugurated new telephone network that offers 60,000 telephone lines to subscribers in 28 locations in Mazandaran Province.

With the operation of the new telephone network as many as 240,296 subscribers in Mazandaran now have telephone facilities at their homes.

Last night the president reviewed development projects being undertaken or already completed in the province. He said the building of 12 large dams in the province is something in which the Islamic Republic takes pride.

He expressed hope that by adhering to the principles of Islam and Iran would soon become a model country for the world to follow.

Aid Shipments Sent to Azerbaijani Refugee Camps

LD2612135893 Tehran IRNA in English 1327 GMT 26 Dec 93

[Text] Parsabad Moghan, East Azarbaijan prov., Dec. 26, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee today sent its second consignment of relief supplies to Sa'atli, Imishli and Saberabad camps for Azeri refugees, run by Iran's Red Crescent Society (RCS).

Head of the local branch of the committee, Khodaverdi Hazrati, told IRNA here today that 48 lorries carried the relief supplies to be distributed among Azeri refugees.

Hazrati added that the donated items, worth rls. 1.500 billion, include 170 tons of flour, 110 tons of rice, 123 tons of potatoes, 300 cartons of powdered milk, 20 cartons of date, 20 tons of sugar, 10 tons of tea and, blankets, carpets and heaters.

Over 40,000 Azeri refugees are settled in the camps and are being provided with foodstuffs and other required facilities by the Red Crescent Society of Iran.

Commentary Sees 'Further Disintegration' of Russia

NC2812115693 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Dec 93 p 16

[Commentary by Mohammad Javad Larijani: "The Moscow Incidents"]

[Text] 1. What is happening in Moscow and how can the incidents in Russia be described? Yeltsin attacked his rivals in parliament disgracefully and now a majority has been won by a party the leadership of which has taken the West by surprise with its remarks!

The West's propaganda machinery has attributed some very odd remarks to the leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party, citing him as saying: "Germany

should stop interfering in Russia's domestic affairs otherwise the Chernobyl incident will be repeated in Berlin." Elsewhere he is cited as warning the Japanese: "Do not fan the flames of the issue of the [Kuril] islands or you will face another Hiroshima." Elsewhere he foresees that Russia will share a border with West Europe; that Russia does not feel the presence of any other country except Japan and China to its East; and that Iran and Turkey will be wiped off the map. He looks forward to the day when Russian soldiers will walk along the warm coasts of the Indian Ocean in their underwear!

In view of Moscow's current situation, even serious remarks should not be taken seriously, not to mention the statements above.

2. These stances have yielded the first fruits for Yeltsin, since they have strongly intimidated the Westerners, who will, therefore, support Yeltsin to save their own interests. Thus, Yeltsin will be in a better position to "milk the West." But how much can the West help and what major effects can the West's assistance have? Some reliable reports indicate that the Jews are using the assistance being extended by the West in a very organized manner and have created a new economic mafia. And what remains in the hands of the impoverished and corrupt bureaucratic government system is like a drop in the ocean! Even if the West spends billions of dollars in Russia, its disintegrated system cannot be put in order.

It is this situation that made opposition to Yeltsin and his rule and support for the slogan of saving Russia, defending and safeguarding the Russians, reviving the grandeur of Russia, extending it from West Europe to China, Japan, Alaska, and the warm waters of the Indian Ocean more attractive! It is not important how sane or applicable these remarks and slogans are! The important point is that a disillusioned and bewildered nation without an identity and in an extremely impoverished state is searching for refuge where it can find a good definition of the word "being."

3. It is easy to conclude that the West's self-centered nature and superiority complex, which has always denigrated other nations and cultures, has given the West work to do, because if Russia is not divided as soon as possible and if its atomic weapons are not destroyed soon, Europe must revive its past defense lines for its safety. This does not mean that America and Europe together and a "Tsar-like Russia" will confront each other, even though the Americans may want to strive for the emergence of a "Tsar-like Russia" to harness Europe! Gentler relations may emerge between America and Russia while Russia and Europe are preparing to charge at each other!

It is within the framework of this theory that we can justify the United States not being seriously concerned about the recent developments in Moscow in the same way that Europe is. We can even speculate on probable plots. For example, American involvement in the liberal-democrats coming to power may appear to be very remote at first. But it can be justified and many guesses can also be made within this context.

So, based on the facts, throughout the coming years and especially throughout much of the first decade of the 21st century, we should anticipate tension, disputes, and the further disintegration of Russia.

Commentary Says Israel Reacts Only to 'Language of Force'

NC2512074393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 25 Dec 93

[Commentary from the News Analysis and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The killing of a high-ranking Zionist officer on Friday by combatants of the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas—has been described as a strong blow to the Zionist regime. This high-ranking Israeli officer headed the Zionist regime forces' special operations unit, members of which operate incognito and, disguised as Palestinians, attack and murder Palestinian dignitaries, commanders, and combatants.

Forces of the Zionists' special operations unit have inflicted major blows on the Palestinians since the start of the intifadah. About a month ago, 'Imad 'Aql—commander of Hamas' military wing—was martyred by men of the Zionist regime's special operations unit. Thus, the killing of the commander of the Zionists' special operations forces sparked off positive reaction among the Palestinians, especially with the Zionist regime's special operations unit martyring more Palestinians following the signing of the PLO-Israeli accord and Israel trying to murder as many Islamic and national strugglers of Palestine as possible before withdrawing from Gaza and Jericho. Since the signing of the accord, Zionist forces have killed around 45 Palestinians.

Parallel with the Palestinians' positive reaction to the killing of the criminal Israeli commander, the Zionist regime couldn't hide its concern and fear over the extreme military capability of the struggling Muslim Palestinians. Shimon Peres, foreign minister of the Zionist regime, stated that this incident will effectively accelerate Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Gaza area.

This stance by Peres shows that only the language of force can affect the Zionist regime. Although the Zionists had to withdraw from the so-called self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho two weeks ago on the basis of the accord they signed with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, they have resorted to various pretexts and not withdrawn in the timeframe they themselves set. But the Palestinian movement's effective blow has again strengthened the idea of fleeing from Gaza, which is the fortress of the Islamists.

Fleeing from Gaza may free the Zionist regime of the Muslims living in Gaza. But they can't save themselves

from the clutches of Muslims elsewhere in Palestine. Muslims will welcome the occupiers everywhere with death.

Daily Criticizes Vatican Decision To Recognize Israel

LD2512110193 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 25 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 25, IRNA—The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial Saturday criticized a decision by the Vatican to establish relations with the Zionist regime.

The Vatican shocked most devout Catholics by announcing its decision to establish diplomatic ties with the Zionist regime around Easter next year, said the daily.

"It confirmed that a historic agreement to forge such a link will be signed on December 30—of all places—in Jerusalem (Holy Qods)."

It said, "In the minds of the true followers of Jesus Christ (peace be upon him) the Jewish betrayal of the messiah is still fresh today, and no worthy Christian likes the idea of collaborating with those who continue to insult and slander the Virgin Mary (peace be upon her).

"Pope John Paul II, it seems, is not just content to grant legitimacy to Israel in violations of the fundamental principles of the Vatican, but is even planning a visit to the illicit entity."

Stressing that 25 percent of the Christians in the Zionist state were forced to leave Palestine during recent years, it said that the migration is greater from such Christian holy sites as Nazareth and Bethlehem.

Turning to the decrease in the number of Christian pilgrims allowed to the holy land, it said that the number of pilgrims reduced from 220,000 in 1987 to 55,000 last year.

"Experience has shown that the racist Zionists do not differentiate between Muslims and Christians."

Mentioning that the un-Christian attitude of the Western leaders is pushing the Vatican deeper into the Zionist quagmire it said, "The pope should realise that the issue of relations with the Zionist entity is far more serious to the Catholics than divorce and abortion, and that he is treading on forbidden ground."

"However, if Christian leaders especially the Vatican continue their same unsuspecting way, they may well meet the second betrayal of Jesus Christ at the hands of the heirs of Judas Iscariot, and Christianity might suffer the fate of the person whom the Jews so exultingly crucified two millenniums ago," concluded the daily.

Newspaper Criticizes GCC Support of UAE Claims

LD2612090193 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 26 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 26, IRNA—An English daily here Sunday editorialized on the recent summit meeting of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council, (P)GCC, and criticized the UAE for reiterating its claims over the three Iranian islands at the end of its summits or ministerial meetings.

'TEHRAN TIMES' wrote that one of the results of such an "unfriendly" approach towards Iran is the opportunity offered to foreign powers to "justify" their presence in the region.

The article further noted that since 1992 when the UAE discussed its claims over Abu Musa, the Greater and the Lesser Tunbs, the (P)GCC has required the "annoying habit" of issuing communiques in which the UAE's claims were reiterated in unfriendly and irresponsible tones.

The effects of the foreign forces presence in the region were far-reaching and destructive, noted the daily, adding that among the most tangible results of their presence was the "industrialized countries' ability to control oil prices."

Criticizing (P)GCC's unfriendly attitude, the paper hoped that an understanding of the necessity and urgency of establishing peace and security in the region on an extensive scale would put an end to such prejudiced approaches.

It concluded by saying that speeding up the process of direct talks between Iran and the UAE could save the future negotiations from further misunderstandings.

TEHRAN TIMES Views Common Interests With Turkey

LD2512133193 Tehran IRNA in English 1239 GMT 25 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 25, IRNA—An English daily Saturday editorialized on Tehran-Ankara relations stressing that common interests between the two countries are of such depth and range that there would be no way for Turkey but to maintain and even expand cordial relations with Iran.

'TEHRAN TIMES' noted that after the death of Turkish President Turgut Ozal in April 1993, many analysts thought that the two countries' ties had also passed away.

Therefore, said the paper, they focused on parameters which reflected the personal preferences of Ozal and concluded that mutual ties between Iran and Turkey were based on personal factors and decisions.

"The influence of the Zionists among the Turkish press is quite obvious and even the Turkish statesmen do not try to deny it in their negotiations. But the prevalent

conditions in the world and in the region do not allow them to appear as final determining forces on the political arena".

The geographical region formed by Turkey-Iran provides the Europeans with the natural access to Asia. In fact political leaders could arrive at early solutions for minor differences such as the presence of opposition forces in both countries, the daily stressed.

The propaganda campaign launched by the Western media last year on the supposed rivalry between Iran and Turkey in the Central Asian countries also proved to be a misconception in practice, said the article.

The Central Asian countries, it added, are so much in need of assistance that there will always be scope for activity no matter how much is done in that region.

"Furthermore, both Iran and Turkey are facing so many economic problems that they can invest in the Central Asian republics only a limited scale", the paper concluded.

Rebel Radio Calls on Turkey for 'Decisive' Stance

NC2612080493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 25 Dec 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Recently foreign radios reported that at the end of a visit by Iranian Vice President Hasan Habibi to Ankara, a series of agreements on cooperation in security and commercial affairs were signed. On the basis of these agreements, Turkey is to purchase 29 million barrels of oil from Iran next year. Turkey and Iran are to study the possibility of building a pipeline that can transfer Iranian oil to Turkey and Europe, and the two countries have announced that they intend to link their railways and roads. Iran has also agreed not to allow Turkish Kurds to operate on Iranian border areas.

Turkey has repeatedly called on Iran, Iraq, and Syria not to grant asylum to the Turkish rebel Kurds. When seeing off Habibi at the airport, Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said that this visit has bolstered Iranian-Turkish friendship.

The truth is that relations between Iran and Turkey have always been accompanied by great tension. Of course, during the past few years officials of both countries met every so often and signed various agreements. Maintaining these relations was of extreme importance, especially for the Islamic Republic during the years of war with Iraq. This regime, which was facing unprecedented isolation at that time and many of its air and sea routes had been rendered insecure, needed to preserve its relations with Turkey and not to lose the transit route to Europe via Turkey.

Needless to say, in addition to commercial cooperation there have always been political and security issues that have compelled the two regimes to cooperate. Preventing the activities of the two regimes' opponents on each other's territories, safeguarding border security, and coordination in the fight against the Kurdish movement in the region are among these issues.

But despite all the comings and goings and the agreements among officials of the two governments, coldness and tension have repeatedly emerged in Iranian-Turkish relations; and this stems from the fact that the clerical regime has never been sincere in its friendship with Turkey. This regime has always tried to weaken the Turkish Government and has tried to hatch plots in Turkey by expanding fundamentalism and by training and arming terrorists and subversive groups.

The clergymen's religious dictatorship has never been happy with the existence, in Iran's proximity, of a secular state that more or less observes some democratic freedoms. The existence of a group of fanatic Muslims in Turkey has been a good opportunity for the Islamic Republic to export, as they say, the Islamic revolution from Iran to Turkey through these fanatics and to weaken the Turkish rule.

Meanwhile, there is another reason the clerical regime is not happy with the existence of the Turkish Government. The Iranian leaders state that opposition to Western countries and the rejection of any type of political-military agreement with them is the cornerstone of their system. Therefore, they cannot accept Turkey, which is a NATO member, a trusted friend of the West, and a country that is requesting EEC membership, as their true friend.

If previously it was only the above two or three elements that gave rise to the Iranian regime's opposition to Turkish rule, during the past couple of years another element has been added. Following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Turkey became the Islamic Republic's staunch rival in the race for domination over the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union, and most of these republics regard Turkey as their bridge for contacts with the West.

In view of the above realities, the question that rises is: Will Turkey continue its contacts and friendship with Iran at any price, or will it adopt a serious and decisive stance vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic's ill intentions and terrorist acts from now on?

The Turkish Government has not reacted as it should have on several occasions when Iran has interfered in its domestic affairs, and not only has it not placed any obstacles in front of the clerical regime's terrorist acts, but Turkey's officials have—on several occasions—arrested opponents of the Iranian regime and handed them over to the clergymen.

Frankly speaking, how can Turkey's compromising stance toward the clerical regime be justified?

Khamene'i Views Selection of Source of Emulation

LD2712145593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Address by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to staff of "revolutionary institutions," government organizations, and military personnel on the occasion of the birth anniversary of 'Ali, at the Imam Khomeyni mosque in Tehran on 27 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The commander of the faithful ['Ali] did not end his struggle against the enemies of religion despite their power. They had political and military power. Some even had popular power and influence. They claimed to be spiritual. Some, such as the Khavarej, were much like our own extremist pseudorevolutionaries who believed in no one except themselves and claimed to be supporters of religion. Much like those who at the beginning of the revolution believed that not even Imam Khomeyni was revolutionary. The commander of the faithful faced and destroyed such groups. He said: Had I not engaged them, no one would have had the courage to do so. Such were the enemies of the commander of the faithful.

Today some people might say that 'Ali is our imam, but they might not be to prepared to oppose the arrogance, the dominant American power, whose oppression against people is several hundred times worse than the corrupt rulers of the early days of Islam. The unjust acts that they commit in one day is more than what those corrupt rulers did in a lifetime. Can such a Muslim, who is not prepared to speak a word against global arrogance, say: I am a follower of 'Ali and he is my imam? [passage omitted]

After many centuries, the government that is now established in the Islamic Republic is following the path of the commander of the faithful. Others went contrary to the ways that the commander of the faithful wanted, spoke, and did. This government is now following his path. It is necessary to help, to cooperate, to encourage, and to criticize in a friendly and brotherly manner so as to allow the Islamic order to continue and guard its correct path. At one time the hardliners, renegades, and disloyal, as well as the world's infidels, opposed the government of the commander of the faithful. Today it is the same. Who is defending the rights of Muslims in the world? This government. Who is sincerely speaking about the issues of Palestine and Lebanon? The order of the Islamic Republic. Of course the heart of nations across the Islamic world beats for them. But it is with the support of governments that nations can move and express an identity. But in other places they are not allowed to, and if so very little. But here the government acts before the people. All those who participate in the plot against Palestine oppose the actions of the Iranian Government and people in support of the Palestinian people. The criminals whose hands are immersed in the blood of the innocent nation of Bosnia- Herzegovina—whose name is being repeated again these days—are opposed to this government because, leading world nations and Islamic governments, it says: Come and help this Muslim nation. How can they bear to see it, those who claim to be human—not those who support human rights. What human rights? They lie. But those who might claim to be human, do they not see a nation, so many women, men, and children, being massacred by the extremist, ethnic- worshipping, anti-human Serbs and Croats who are devoid of human feelings? It is the government of the Islamic Republic and the Muslim nation who speak frankly, seriously, openly, and with steadfastness. They do not limit themselves to words. They give practical help. The Muslim nation has helped and should do more. The Iranian Government has also helped. What could have been announced and propagated, has been said. More, God willing, will become clear in the future. That is why they oppose this government. The world is trying to frustrate the Iranian people in following the path of Islam and the commander of the faithful. [passage omitted]

A great source of emulation was taken from our midst. Well, the people behaved in a most worthy way: With the funeral procession; with the mourning ceremonies; with telegrams and condolences; and with a display of loyalty.

Some people began to wander around the crowds, saying: Gentlemen, the source of emulation is gone. We had a great source of emulation and he is gone. There are no others; we have no others. What will we do from now on? They were trying to upset some believers.

Exalted God, in His wisdom and mercy, put forward one of His great resources in the Qom theological seminary for the people to emulate: That old, elderly man with such strong spiritual and religious foundations; that great and steady backbone of jurisprudence and theology. Exalted God protected this man for dozens of years just for this day. It is an amazing thing. Back when we were in Qom and saw this eminent marja', Grand Ayatollah Araki—well, he was a man who was respected by everyone for his theological learning and piety, but no one suspected that he would become a source of emulation. He made a point of keeping away from the paths that lead to becoming a source of emulation. He used to keep apart. He was well known for his asceticism, guiltlessness, piety, and reclusiveness. [passage omitted]

Exalted God protected this man. He gave him longevity. He maintained his presence of mind. He protected his spiritual, theological, and mental strength for today. And, let me tell you, at all times there have been, thanks to the wisdom of God, personalities and dignitaries in the Qom seminary whom you will have no doubts about emulating. You may not know who they are today. It may be that no one will know who they are until their appointed hour. That is to say, no one will know them as sources of emulation; I do not mean to say that they will be complete strangers.

When their name is mentioned in the future people will think: How strange, this man has been serving and teaching in the seminary for 40, 50, 30 years, and no one thought of him as a source of emulation. That is how God protects His resources for the appointed day. And, with God's blessings, Shiite theological seminaries—and the Qom seminary far more than all others—are brimming with such resources.

Our predecessors worked hard. Our great ones and our great religious jurisprudents worked hard in these seminaries. We have the resources, but there is no need for them to constantly parade before the people saying: Look, we are here too. They are there in the Qom seminary. When Exalted God wills it, they will be revealed. Exalted God will reveal them. Today, He has revealed one of them; he is enough for the people. If one day the need arises again, Exalted God will reveal others from among those great ones. The people will have no problem whatsoever emulating them, praise be to God.

The enemy wanted to use this occasion as well to sow despair among the people; to create panic. Vigilance, gentlemen! The Iranian nation must be vigilant. You have, God be praised, successfully trodden along this difficult path so far because of your vigilance. Vigilance, combined with reliance on God and devotion to the Lord of the Age [the 12th Shiite imam]—may our souls be sacrificed to him—maintaining unity of expression, being fearless before enemies and fearful before God—these things have allowed you to tread this path successfully until today. God willing, Exalted God will continue to help us in the future. Thanks to God's blessings, this Islamic society will become, materially and spiritually, that very model society that will inspire and attract all the world's nations. [passage omitted]

Assembly of Leadership Experts Meets in Qom

LD2712172293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Excerpt] The fourth annual session of the Assembly of Experts for Leadership Affairs began work in Qom's Dar al-Shafa school this morning under the chairmanship of Ayatollah Meshkini. In the session, the single article relating to the description of the responsibilities of the Assembly of Experts' secretariat was approved after being discussed by the members.

At the beginning of the session, Ayatollah Meshkini conveyed his greetings on the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of the Lord of the Faithful, His Holiness Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him; expressed regret about the demise of the great marja' [source of emulation] of the world of Shiism, Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani; and delivered a brief speech. [passage omitted]

Experts Meet Ayatollah Araki

LD2712172393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] The members and presidium members of the Assembly of Experts on Leadership went to the home of Grand Ayatollah Araki this afternoon, met with his eminence, and expressed their congratulations for the auspicious birth anniversary of Imam 'Ali, the lord of the pious, peace be upon him.

At the meeting Ayatollah Meshkini, the chairman of the Assembly of Experts on Leadership, submitted a report on the programs and activities of the Assembly and the agenda of its fourth session.

Then, in a speech, Grand Ayatollah Araki described some of the characteristics of Imam 'Ali, his holiness the lord of the pious, the first leader of the Shiite world, peace be upon. He prayed for increasing success for the members of the Assembly of Experts and its recent session.

Military Diving Maneuvers End in Persian Gulf

LD2312225293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] The joint six-day [military] diving maneuvers, Val Fajr-2, that were being carried out in the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Hormuz Strait, ended today.

The Val Fajr-2 diving maneuvers were carried out in five phases of various operations under the guidance and command of the Khatam ol-Anbia-1 base, and with the participation of units from the first and second regions of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, and the first, second, and third regions of the Islamic Revolution Guards Navy.

The participants successfully carried out underwater defense operations, anti-guerrilla defense, anti-diver operations against hypothetical enemy divers, gathering and neutralizing mines which would have been laid, and capturing the forces of the hypothetical enemy, diving from helicopters, and underwater destructive operations. They also conducted search and access operations for installations, resources, jetties, and [marine] platforms belonging to the hypothetical enemy.

Divers participating in the maneuvers successfully carried out surveillance and rescue operations, refloating of sinking vessels, shore reconnaissance of the hypothetical enemy, attacking the reconnoitered positions, and preparing the shoreline for attack by their own units.

Supreme Court Head Vows 'Ruffians' To Be Punished

LD2212123193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] In a news conference today Head of the State Supreme Court Mr. [Morteza] Moqtada'i warned ruffians and corrupt elements, emphasizing that religious laws and tenets should be observed with precision when state judicial sentences are issued. He said: The judicial apparatus will attend to these kinds of cases, quickly, firmly, and decisively.

He referred to the arrest of a 15-member strong gang of armed robbers who were creating fear and terror in Karaj and Shahryar and said: The case of this group was investigated and given special priority and the death sentence was carried out with regard to 10 of them. Two others accused in this case who had committed a lesser crime were sentenced to imprisonment and payment of fines.

Mr. Moqtada'i also referred to the arrest of another gang of ruffians in the city of Qom, adding: The sentences issued in connection with the latter's cases were also carried out during this current week [starting 18 December] in Qom city.

In connection with the investigation of the case of another armed gang of highwaymen, he said: The case of the members involved in this gang is also being investigated.

Spokesman Announces Production of Solid-State Lasers

LD2712180793 Tehran IRNA in English 1752 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 27, IRNA—For the first time ever Iran was successful in yielding neodymium solid-state lasers, Iran's Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) spokesman, 'Ali Shirzadiyan, told IRNA on Sunday.

Shirzadiyan said this substance could be used as a reliable and simple instrument in such medical branches as surgery and therapy as well as in various industrial fields including cutting, welding and marking of metallic and non-metallic materials.

He said the product with its high marketing potential has a variety of applications in research centers and universities.

According to Shirzadiyan IAEA's Spectrography Center embarked on project of neodymium solid-state lasers production, manufacturing all of its parts fully out of minerals based on international regulations.

He added that only a few countries in the world are capable of producing neodymium crystals.

Khorramshahr-Kuwait Shipping Operation Inaugurated

LD2712183993 Tehran IRNA in English 1814 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Khorramshahr, Khuzestan Prov., Dec. 27, IRNA—On the occasion of the birthday of Hazrat 'Ali (a.s.), the first imam of Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) [peace be upon him] household, the first Khorramshahr-Kuwait shipping line in this southern Iranian port city was inaugurated here today.

Negin, the most advanced passenger ship belonging to Valfajr-8 shipping company, will be the first ship to leave here for Kuwait on Tuesday carrying 250 passengers.

The trip between Khorramshahr and Kuwait will take four hours. Negin will provide round-trip transportation from Khorramshahr three times a week.

Editorial Urges Officials To Explain Economic Problems

NC2812095993 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 14 Dec 93 pp 1-2

[Editorial: "The Foreign Exchange Crisis and Difficult Conditions"]

[Excerpts] As was foreseen, currency policies without real planning have led to a rise in foreign exchange prices on the Iranian market and temporary measures have been unable to stop the rapid developments. Apparently, the meaningful silence by the country's financial officials shows that this process will continue and many economic analysts are unclear about the plan hiding behind this policy. [passage omitted]

Some believe the sharp rise in foreign exchange rates is due to advice by the World Bank and the IMF on the need to create a logical balance between the rial and the U.S. dollar. [passage omitted]

Another group believes that to curb inflation and stop the cashflow, the government is trying to resort to a short-term program to increase the value of the dollar against the rial and absorb a large part of the cashflow before redistributing the cash under stricter control and, by directing the errant capital into the economic machinery, prepare the ground for a drop in inflation.

Those who support this view point to government silence and the absence of any serious intervention to stop the delirious rise in the value of the dollar against the rial. But another group believes that two factors—the large amount of government borrowing abroad, which has not been repaid, and the drop in oil prices—have blocked income and led to the current situation and that to make the best use of foreign exchange income and confront the fall in oil prices, the government intends to limit imports by not offering foreign exchange on the

market and by reducing the amount of exchange allocations for imports. This has increased foreign exchange demand on the free market and placed unrealistic pressure on the rial.

Others blame the government's incorrect currency policies, the absence of government control and supervision, and profiteering by foreign exchange dealers, listing these as the main reason behind the situation. They believe that if the government does not intervene in the current process, foreign exchange rates will continue to rise against the rial. But if management is reformed, if currency policies are changed, if government supervision and control become more serious, if imports are reduced, and if the foreign currency dealer is cut out of the process, the dollar rate will fall rapidly and reach a reasonable rate against the rial.

There are others who blame all the above for the current circumstances and say things will keep spiraling. But note: All the analysts agree with the view that the conditions are temporary and that the current process is not normal.

Whatever the assessment we agree with, we should not forget that in the circumstances, the social, cultural, and political repercussions of the situation should be taken seriously. There is no logical justification for state officials' silence. If they have ruled that the current process is correct, then they should at least explain their reasons to the people and heed the people's participation in fruitful decisionmaking. If the process is not positive, they should again inform the people. [passage omitted]

Suggestions Offered on Measures To Stop 'Economic Crisis'

NC2812105293 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 16 Dec 93 pp 1-2

[Editorial: "Who Are To Blame?"]

[Excerpts] An economic crisis has become clear with the daily increase in the rate of foreign exchange, which actually means a devaluation of the national currency the rial. Economic policymakers, who, until recently, spoke in one interview after another about a flourishing economy, about being ahead of programs, and about a bright future and so on are now not even prepared to answer the simple question on how, nine months ago, they confidently stated that with the single parity rate for foreign exchange they would stabilize the dollar exchange rate at 1,400 rials. [passage omitted]

Did all the developments that many experts believe were compulsory occur because of incorrect policies, assessments, and information? Is it right for us to blame the situation on foreign elements and especially on America's mischief? Couldn't we correctly assess world policies on changes in oil prices. Didn't the press repeatedly write that assessing oil income on the basis of 4.5 barrels a day [figure as published] at $18 a barrel is unrealistic? Was it not repeatedly stated that the balancing figures in the budget were unreal and that expenditure was not in proportion with income? How can all these wrong forecasts and incorrect assessments be justified now?

Naturally, it is naive to blame all these on foreign factors and to ignore our own erroneous acts. Who is to blame for the current situation? Why should all those who gave all this wrong information, made all these wrong assessments, and put forth all these wrong policies and plans not be answerable today? [passage omitted]

Doubtless, we are facing realities that we cannot ignore. And we don't believe there is no solution to the crisis. We are sure that instead of useless slogans, we should be realistic so that problems can be solved easily. But we can place ourselves on the correct path only when we act like many other countries, which attach importance to the role of their people and seriously consider what their people have to say, and when we seriously accept that those who are to blame for this situation should also be answerable.

The people want the esteemed president, as the highest in rank in the country's executive machinery, to create the conditions to reprimand and review without indulgence the deeds of those officials who have provided the wrong information, made the wrong calculations and assessments, and put forward thoughtless plans, thus placing society and the nation in front of this situation.

This does not mean that positive efforts will be ignored. Reviewing policies, accepting responsibilities, and seriously confessing to errors can all mark the beginning of positive developments. Even if the country's economic and financial officials are not to blame for the situation, they are responsible for the crisis that has emerged. The most basic thing they can do is to assume responsibility for this crisis and give up their posts to make way for paving the grounds to emerge from this crisis.

Procrastinating and giving advice to be patient and tolerant cannot solve problems. The 80-percent rise in foreign exchange rates and the devaluation of the national currency—in just one month—is no simple issue. True, society has become accustomed to these fluctuations and goes to sleep at night and wakes up in the morning to new hikes of between 20 to 50 percent in the price of basic products. But such fluctuations are tantamount to a true crisis in national economies—whatever the reason behind the crisis.

The country's financial and economic officials who can't achieve some balance should accept that part of the situation stems from their weakness in management and their wrong assessments of the country's social, political, and economic situation and that the only solution today is a positive change in the country's economic management structure, which can be achieved by appointing people who have the necessary competence in managing affairs and who can assess situations accurately and adopt realistic executive policies.

Economic Situation, Drop in Value of Rial Viewed

NC2612102593 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 15 Dec 93 p 2

[Editorial by M. Nikzad: "Rial Under 'Control'?"]

[Text] In recent weeks, specially the past few days, almost every Iranian has been talking about the sharp drop in the value of the rial against major foreign currencies, creating a great deal of controversy and confusion. The silence and unclear policy of the Central Bank vis-a-vis the current monetary situation in Iran has added to the public frustration, specially among those who are engaged in healthy commercial and industrial activities.

Parallel to the drop in the value of the Iranian national currency, the people's trust in the government's economic policy has also decreased daily just as their purchasing power. Worse is the vague or perhaps the incorrect statements made by the economic officials which keep compounding the present currency market fiasco in the country and, thus, create further confusion.

In an interview with the English daily TEHRAN TIMES published yesterday, presidential advisor Morteza Alviri said in connection to the present currency situation in the country: "The situation is alarming but not out of control."! [Alviri's interview was published in the TEHRAN TIMES on 16 Dec]

The fact is that because during the last few weeks the hard currency market has registered an unprecedented value increase against the rial every body has rushed to have a share of the currency pie or the windfall profit. In the meantime, the prices of commodities and households goods have increased between 30 percent to 40 percent. In view of these facts, can anybody logically say that the currency situation is under control? It takes too much optimism to answer that question in the affirmative.

Mr. Alviri's statement has surprised economic observers and might even add to the current confusion which will not be settled in the foreseeable future. Such statements will provide good reasons for money dealers to further exploit the current situation in their own benefits.

Despite the fact that on several occasions the economic officials of the country have expressed similar statements, trying to assure the public of the rial's so-called stability, it has kept nosediving against dollar and other major currencies. By implementing long and proper plans the government must try to cut the hands of the profiteers who interfere in money exchange markets in an attempt to fish out of troubled waters.

In order to achieve its economic objectives, the government needs to carry out its policies with the public's support and trust. Therefore the officials should not make statements that would lessen the trust in them. Because in the long run the success of the government programs in the economic field as in others would be only possible with the support and cooperation of the people at large.

Pakistan

Bhutto Sees End of International Isolation

BK2512145693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Dec 93

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has resolved to establish a clean administration and political setup to enable the people to enjoy the fruits of democracy. She was addressing the MPA's [members of the provincial assembly] of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] from Punjab at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad today. The prime minister said the PPP is enjoying a better understanding with the Punjab chief minister, Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo, and the coalition government in the province is functioning to our satisfaction. The PDF [People's Democratic Front] coalition would provide stable governments at the center and the provinces which would make efforts to erase impacts of corruption and nepotism by an incompetent government of the past. The prime minister said provincial autonomy is an important principle of the Constitution which will be upheld in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and principles guiding the integrity of the country.

Elaborating the achievements of her government, the prime minister said in just two months, we have been able to bring an end to the international isolation and regain the confidence of the people in the state machinery. The prime minister told the MPA's that her government has started working to give practical shape to PPP manifesto. The government has arranged to pay back to victims of biggest-ever cooperatives scandal in the country. Besides, she said, the government has also created jobs for 49,000 lady house workers and teachers. In the energy sector, the Ghazi-Varoda and Hub power projects have been initiated which were lying in cold storage. These projects will help reduce the load-shedding in the country.

About the foreign exchange reserves, the prime minister pointed out that her government inherited foreign exchange reserves of $280 million. But now, after two months, it has crossed the figure of $1 billion. This, she said, is a reflection of the confidence in the policies of her government. She also expressed her resolve to take further steps to control the budgetary deficit and inflation. Concluding her speech, the prime minister said Islamic social democratic order is the target of the present government and full attention would be given to provide improved quality of life to the people.

Bhutto Pays Official Visit to PRC, Meets Leaders

WA2812153993

For PRC and other reportage on the visit by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to the PRC, including reports on her talks with Jiang Zemin, CPC general secretary and president of state, and Li Peng, premier of the State Council, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 27 December China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Use of Reactors for Electricity Supported

BK2812100793 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 28 Dec 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Pakistan To Build Nuclear Reactor"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said that the United States should either repeal the Pressler Amendment or bring India under its purview. South Asia faces a threat from India, not Pakistan, which wants to meet its power shortfall by utilizing nuclear energy. Pakistan has no other option except to build its own nuclear reactor to meet its energy requirements. He made these observations while addressing the 23d graduation and awards ceremony at the Center for Nuclear Studies.

Pakistan is faced with the problem of increasing its power output. The existing resources cannot produce an adequate amount of electricity to meet the requirements of the industrial, agricultural, and trade sectors as well as domestic consumers. For this reason the country has to cut power output every year, thereby affecting industrial and agricultural production and disrupting people's normal lives. Increasing electricity production is essential for Pakistan's all-around development. The country's existing thermal and hydroelectric power stations are generating electricity at full capacity; to produce additional power, Pakistan will have to utilize nuclear energy.

France is an example for everyone. That country meets most of its energy requirements with its nuclear power stations. Pakistan can also become self-sufficient in electricity production. The nuclear power plant in Karachi has been running successfully for the past 20 to 22 years, and the expertise gained from this plant can be utilized to operate other nuclear power stations. The country can rely on the expertise of Pakistani scientists and technical experts to build nuclear reactors to generate electricity.

'Sources' View Israeli-Indian Cooperation

BK2812121693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] India and Israel have increased the defense cooperation and Israel has offered India its indigenously produced unmanned military aeroplane that would enable New Delhi to spy on its neighbors and gather vital defense information. This Israeli aircraft said to be one of the best in the world was extensively used during the Gulf war. It is reliably learned that the aircraft, the negotiations for whose acquisition by New Delhi are now well under way, would sharply increase India's capability for close surveillance of the neighboring countries at close (?calls) and without any pilot risks.

Tel Aviv is also reported to have offered New Delhi the upgradation of MiG-21 of the Indian Air Force by improving the radar systems and engines. Israeli technology is also being transferred for ballistic computers of the Indian Army's T-55 Vijayanta Tanks and main battle tank Arjun with the latest sensors and firing gun control system.

Negotiations are also going on between the two countries for joint production of armor piercing and electronic equipment and optical instruments in India. Apart from these bilateral defense ties, the sources note, India has been procuring military hardware from Israel through third parties and is said to have bought weapons worth over $100 million through these channels since 1979. According to the sources, Israel has played an important role in the development of the nuclear devise by India which it exploded in 1974 in Rajasthan by training Indian nuclear scientists in its nuclear establishment and providing the technology it had acquired from the United States. The sources maintained that the fast-growing India-Israeli military cooperation does not augur well for New Delhi's smaller neighbors.

Indian 'Atrocities' in Kashmir Denounced

BK2312145093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] Pakistan has expressed grave concern over the continuing Indian brutal repression in occupied Kashmir and said it is necessary to stop it for creating the conducive atmosphere for the success of the forthcoming foreign secretary level talks on Kashmir on the first of next month. The Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that Pakistan is committed to hold these talks and has called upon the friendly countries to prevail upon India to hold its repression in the occupied valley.

The spokesman said Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M. Khan called the ambassadors of the West European countries and the Islamic states on Tuesday [December 21] and briefed them about the grave situation and Indian repression in occupied Kashmir. He said since the announcement of foreign secretary level talks there has been wide-scale atrocities in occupied Kashmir between November 24 and December 19. Even Indian press accounts have estimated that 385 people have been killed or wounded in the held valley. The spokesman said we have the estimates of figures each day and the real figure of casualty is probably multiplied by three. The massacre that took place in Sopor on the 26th of last month killed 50 people and injured 200. On December 18 and 19, according to reports, Indian troops have virtually razed to the ground large part of the Sopor town

and have rendered thousands of men, women, and children homeless to face severe winter in the Kashmir Valley.

The spokesman said Pakistan has full information about the Indian intelligence agency RAW's [Research and Analysis Wing] nefarious activities in Pakistan and other neighboring countries and called upon India to stop the sabotage and subversive activities of the agency. The spokesman said over a period of time a large number of RAW agents involved in sabotage and subversive activities in Pakistan have been arrested. Replying to a question concerning press reports quoting Israeli ambassador to India that diplomats from Pakistan and Israel have been in secret contacts, the spokesman categorically contradicted these reports saying that Pakistan does not have any contact informal or secret with Israel.

Ambassador to UN Affirms Commitment to Somalia

BK2412144993 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Pakistan's offer to provide two additional battalions to the UN troops in Somalia reflects its commitment to strengthening the world organization's role in maintaining international peace and security. This was stated by Pakistan's ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Jamshed Marker, in an exclusive interview with PTV correspondent, Iftikhar Chaudhary, in New York. He said Pakistan believes in practising the concept of collective security. Ambassador Marker said Pakistan's offer of more troops is conditional on providing them proper equipment. He said unlike other countries, Pakistan will follow UN secretary general's recommendations and will be guided by them alone and not by what the Americans do or do not do.

Sources at the UN Headquarters said Pakistani troops are likely to handle security for UN peacekeeping forces headquarters in Mogadishu. In addition to troops, Pakistan is to set up hospital units in Somalia.

Meanwhile, the UN special envoy for Somalia, Admiral Jonathan Howe, has expressed misgivings that civil war, famine, and starvation may return to Somalia if UN peacekeeping force is withdrawn by March next year. He said if the international community uses 31 March as the exit date, civil war may again erupt, resulting in famine and starvation leaving thousands dead. Admiral Howe said it is important that a reduction in the size of the UN forces in Somalia should be gradual during 1994.

Minister Comments on Troops in Somalia, Sindh

BK2612024693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Dec 93

[Text] Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani spoke to newsmen in Gujrat yesterday and said the country's defense is in strong hands and the armed forces are fully capable of defending the frontiers.

In reply to a question, the defense minister said Pakistani troops have been sent to Somalia to save the lives of innocent people for humanitarian reasons and in accordance with UN resolutions. Regarding the prime minister's recent visits to Iran and Turkey, he said these visits have opened up new avenues of cooperation with these countries in various sectors. In response to a query about the army operation in Sindh, the defense minister said it will continue as long as it is needed.

International Defense Firms 'Lobbying' for Deals

BK2512081993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 25 Dec 93 pp 1, 10

[Text] Islamabad—Representatives of several international companies have started lobbying in Pakistan following the federal cabinet's decision not to depend on any one country for defence needs.

These companies are trying to mould public opinion in their favour in an effort to foil the govt's efforts to buy Mirage-2000 from France and SU-27 and MiG-29 aircraft from Russia.

Sensitive agencies have received information that these representatives were directed from their respective companies' zonal offices in New Delhi. They were engaged in propaganda against Pakistani deals with America, France and Russia for war planes.

Meanwhile, sources in Islamabad said Pakistan had held successful political talks with France to buy Mirage-2000s. Experts have termed inclusion of these planes into Pakistan Air Force as consequential on technical grounds. The govts of both countries have yet to finalise the financial package for the deal. Pakistan, however, has conveyed its payment formula to the French govt and the respective company. Sources said Pakistan has yet to finalise a SU-27 and MiG-29 deal with Russia. They said a Russian delegation would soon visit Islamabad in this regard.

They, however, said it was premature to say whether these aircraft would be worthwhile for the air force. This could only be said after a test-and-trial of the planes, which would be held after talks on a political level between both countries.

Army Training Program, Joint Exercises Launched

BK2212151993 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Excerpt] A program for imparting broad-based training to various (?strike) components of Pakistan Army is being launched to enhance the Army's capability to meet its obligations abroad. Under the program, joint exercises with the troops of friendly countries will also be conducted from time to time. A press release of General Headquarters issued today says this has been necessitated by special needs arising from Pak Army's commitments in operations abroad. In the recent past, our

troops have been asked to conduct operations under the auspices of UN in Kampuchea and Somalia. The Army is also likely to soon undertake similar operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It has been decided to enlarge the ambit of mutual cooperation between Pakistani and foreign troops and invite friendly countries to conduct joint exercises in Pakistan. As a result, military delegations from Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Jordan, Iran, Australia, and Sweden have been attending Pak Army exercises during the current season of winter collective training. [passage omitted]

Private Sector To Manufacture Military Spare Parts

BK2012090593 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Dec 93 p 12

[Text] Karachi, Dec 19—The Federal Government has decided to transfer manufacturing of spare-parts for arms and ammunitions and some particular machines produced at Pakistan Ordnance Factories [POF] to the private sector.

The matter has been discussed with the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry [KCCI] and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry which have assured the cooperation of the private entrepreneurs of the country in establishment of manufacturing units for the spare-parts for Pakistan Ordnance Factories.

The Ordnance Factories at Wah Cantt are manufacturing sub-machine guns, shotguns, cartridges, short-range missiles and some machines required in this regard. A large number of spare-parts are required for the products while one hand manufacturing of the spare-parts at the Ordnance Factories is hindering the smooth production it needs a huge administrative and professional staff on the other hand. [sentence as published]

The Pakistan Ordnance Factories are holding an exhibition of their product in Karachi with the collaboration of KCCI on Jan 11 and 12 in order to give an idea to the private entrepreneurs of the spare-parts required.

The exhibition named as "Vendor Bazar" of the POF is likely to encourage the private engineering and manufacturing units in the country (particularly in Karachi) to take active part in the manufacturing of the spare-parts locally in order to save a large amount of the foreign exchange spent on the import of those spare-parts and the machinery required for holding some of the important spare-parts.

The decisions to shift the manufacturing of some of the spare-parts from POF to the private sector and to get some of the imported items manufactured locally have been taken in order to reduce the dependence on foreign components in the defence sector.

The registration forms for the industrial units interested in supplying the spare-parts would be available at the "Vendor Bazar".

Sri Lanka

LTTE Killing Suspected Informers in Jaffna

BK2612115293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Dec 93

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has now begun killing suspected informants in Jaffna. The civilians in Jaffna have also been warned that all informants would be treated as traitors and [words indistinct]. This warning from the LTTE hierarchy came soon after nine persons described as informers were executed by LTTE firing squad in a secret location in Jaffna last week. The LTTE's intelligence unit called TOSIS, Tiger Organization Security Intelligence Service, operated under the supervision of Shiv Shankar alias Pottu Amman is currently achieving [word as heard] active search operations for informants. This special unit has also called upon the civilians to give information on any suspicious characters moving around the LTTE-controlled areas.

Sixteenth of January 1994 is expected to be the D-Day for the former deputy leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, LTTE, Gopal Swamy Mahendraraja alias Mahattaya and for about 20 of his close associates, according to information from the north. The 40-year Mahattaya is expected to be executed on the first death anniversary of (Satatiwan) Krishna Kumar alias Kittu, whom Mahattaya is suspected to have betrayed, according to the report. Kittu who was top runner in the LTTE was killed with several other cadres in an explosion on board a ship by the Indian security forces on 16 January this year while attempting to smuggle in a load of weapons to the terrorists. He was believed to have been betrayed to the Indian forces by Mahattaya who was subsequently taken into custody by Prabhakaran loyalists and charged with being a traitor and spy. According to reports, the stage is now set for the execution of Mahattaya, one time close aide of Prabhakaran, along with 20 of his close aides.

Government Urged To Assist Tamils in Colombo

BK2712091993 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 11 Dec 93 p 2

[Editorial: "The Plight of Tamils Who Have Come To Seek Asylum"]

[Text] As far as Tamils are concerned, it is Colombo—the capital—that provides asylum from the grave situation resulting from the continuing conflict in the Northern Province. Thousands of people from the north, whose houses have been damaged in the intensified military operations and air raids, have arrived in

Colombo seeking asylum. The Tamils, who are living in straightened circumstances in the capital after leaving their people and assets behind, face various ordeals and difficulties.

These people, who are struggling to find proper dwellings and meet their daily needs, must also face the aggravations of security exigencies. In the capital, Tamils experience major problems during police search operations. According to an earlier government release, people can avoid unnecessary inconvenience during search operations if they register at police stations. But there have been complaints about ambiguities and irregularities experienced while registering at police stations.

A few years ago, the government announced that Tamils living in the capital temporarily must register their names at police stations. But those who registered their names were arrested anyway. Subsequently, there was another announcement calling for a new registration of names. Tamils who had already registered their names scrambled to the police stations to register. Even then, the Tamils faced indiscriminate arrest in Colombo. They were kept in detention for three or four days, even after producing their certificates of registration. There were also complaints that the police disregarded certificates of registration during search operations.

Meanwhile, complaints are rising that police stations in places like (Neer Colombo) and Cochchikkade are refusing to register the names of Tamils. It is reported that when newcomers in these areas go to police stations to register, they are turned away with the explanation that it is not time for registration. There is no doubt that this kind of response creates an insecure situation for Tamils coming to the capital. The government is implementing various schemes to rehabilitate people affected by violence in the areas that have been brought under Army control in the Northern Province as well as in the Eastern Province. It has spent billions of rupees on these schemes.

While appreciating the government's sincerity in rehabilitating refugees in the north and east, we would like to point out that the Tamils in the capital are also refugees. Although the refugee camps in Colombo have been closed, you still come across Tamils living in slums and paying a small amount of rent. It is essential that the government use the same yardstick for refugee status in Colombo. It does not matter if they are not rehabilitated in Colombo, but creating an atmosphere in which they can live peacefully and without apprehensions would be appreciated. We urge the government to create an atmosphere in which innocent people can face any security measure without fear.

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